

Iran hangs alleged dissident

NICOSIA (AP) — An alleged Iranian dissident convicted of plotting to bomb a mosque in June was hanged in public in the southern city of Zahedan Saturday, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency said that hundreds of Iranians chanted "Death to America" as Bahram Abbazadeh was executed. IRNA said he was a member of the Iran-based Mojahedeen-e-Khalq, the main Iranian rebel movement which seeks to topple the fundamentalist regime in Tehran. The group has denied the charge. Iranian authorities have said that Abbazadeh was arrested June 23 on his way to plant a bomb in the Sunni Muslim Makke Mosque in Zahedan, capital of Sistan-Baluchistan province which borders Pakistan. IRNA said he confessed during his trial before an Islamic court that he wanted to "create strife" between Iran's minority sect and the Shiite Muslims who form 95 per cent of the country's 60 million people. The agency quoted Abbazadeh as saying during his trial that he joined the Mojahedeen in 1993 and underwent sabotage training at a training base in Iraq. He said he was infiltrated back into Iran in June.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Protestants march through Londonderry

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (R) — Some 10,000 hard-line Protestants marched through Londonderry on Saturday in a noisy rerun of the event that first set Northern Ireland ablaze 25 years ago. Drummers flanked by even greater gusto than usual while pipes, accordions and flutes wailed out tunes signalling hostility to the aims of the rival Catholic community. A huge police presence was on hand to choke off the kind of clashes that sent Protestants rampaging through Catholic areas in August 1969. It was when those clashes spread to Belfast, the Northern Ireland capital, that Britain sent troops to the British province to keep order — a mission that troops have pursued ever since. As in 1969, Saturday's march was staged by the Apprentice Boys of Derry, an organisation of largely middle-aged men devoted to the memory of a Protestant triumph of arms 305 years ago. Behind gaudily uniformed bands strode the mainstream apprentice members in classic Protestant garb — bowlers, shoulder sashes and furled umbrellas.

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Bouez: Breakthrough is possible with Israel

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Paris Bouez said on Saturday a breakthrough in peace talks with Israel was possible in the next few months.

"From now until the next four or five months there is a probability and a possibility of an essential, substantial, tangible and serious advancement on the peace front," Mr. Bouez told the Voice of Lebanon radio station in an interview.

Beirut insists that before peace is signed Israel must pull out from a buffer zone it occupied in South Lebanon or at least give a timetable for a withdrawal. Israel says Lebanon should stop cross-border guerrilla attacks first. Repeating his government's line on guerrillas fighting Israeli forces, Mr. Bouez said it could not possibly stop Lebanese from resisting the Israeli occupiers of their land.

"The Lebanese people believe it is hard to gain back its right by traditional methods only," Mr. Bouez said.

He said that in talks between Israel and Syria a "certain development over the past" took place — especially after the other Arab partners, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan, reached peace breakthroughs with Israel.

"In the past it was believed the best way (to negotiate)

was to declare principles then enter into details," Mr. Bouez said. "But now after 'Gaza-Jericho first' and what happened with Jordan there is a feeling that details are no less important than the principle and can empty the principle."

"Therefore, moving from the 'principles then details' theory to that of 'principles and details together' ... may be the point of agreement between all partners," he said.

A senior Lebanese official said on Thursday that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would return to the Middle East in September to seek answers to specific peace ideas he has presented to Israel and Syria in his recent tour of the region.

He said Mr. Christopher relayed to Syrian leaders Israel's willingness to withdraw totally but gradually over five years from the Golan Heights, seized by the Jewish state in 1967.

The suggestion was a compromise between a Syrian demand a pull out be finished in up to two years and Israel's insistence on eight.

"I think Christopher came to begin crystallising the principle of the withdrawal with Syria," Mr. Bouez said.

The official, who requested anonymity, said that among other ideas floated by Mr. Christopher was that Israel and Syria should show readi-



Paris Bouez

ness to discuss security arrangements immediately after agreeing on the timetable of the withdrawal, and both states should specify their definitions of these arrangements.

Mr. Christopher assured the Syrians that recent breakthroughs on other Arab-Israeli tracks would not affect the commitment to a comprehensive and just peace.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said in Beirut on Wednesday there was no tangible progress in the peace process with Israel but reported "serious discussion" of key issues.

Syria and Lebanon closely coordinate peace talks moves.

An Israeli television station reported Friday Israel

and Syria were negotiating a time frame for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The report on Channel Two also said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has agreed to a full peace treaty with Israel.

The United States is proposing a two-year Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, the television report said. That proposal is a compromise between the four year withdrawal Israel has offered and the one year demanded by Syria, Channel Two said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday that he had not heard of the proposal. But Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Channel Two it is one of several being discussed.

On Saturday, Syria's government daily Tishrin accused the Jewish state of unwillingness to give up occupied land.

This Israeli deliberate evasion from full withdrawal from the Golan and South Lebanon will keep the peace process rotating in its place," the newspaper said.

Right-wing legislators sharply criticised the reported proposal, and the opposition Likud Party said that if it came to power in 1996 it would not respect a treaty that entailed a complete withdrawal from the

Democratic Union.

A cold war "hawk" and supporter of the deployment in Europe of nuclear missiles aimed at the Soviet Union, he later saw NATO turn its attention to new challenges after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

Woerner's death raises difficult questions for the alliance about who should succeed him, at a time when NATO is deeply involved in Bosnia and in trying to build greater security for Europe. His robust leadership was widely respected.

Woerner, the first German to head NATO since it was founded in 1949 to counter Soviet military power in Europe, had taken the summer months off to recover from a series of operations for cancer of the colon.

But he wrote to the allies recently saying he intended to return to his post next month. His mandate ran out in mid-1996.

NATO sources said allied ambassadors would probably meet in the near future to discuss a possible successor.

"We are involved in a lot of issues and we need leadership soon. There cannot be a vacuum for long," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

Woerner served as West

Crown Prince, American council team discuss Mideast development

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in his office Saturday representatives of the Washington-based Council of Foreign Relations who briefed the prince on Washington's Middle East project.

Delegation members said they were seeking to mobilise the council's resources and its influential members towards making this project a success.

Prince Hassan discussed with the visitors the most appropriate means that can contribute to the success of joint projects to be executed in the Jordan Rift Valley.

Discussion at the meeting also covered an economic conference to be held in Casablanca which is scheduled to tackle sources of financing of projects that will



be implemented in the Middle East.

The Casablanca meeting is to be followed up by a similar

forum to be held in Amman. Delegation members said Jordan enjoys a qualified private sector which is bound to

contribute to the process of attracting external funding directly or through joint investments.

NATO's Woerner passes away at 59

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Secretary General Manfred Woerner, who had been undergoing treatment for intestinal cancer for some time, died here Saturday, a NATO spokesman announced.

Woerner died around 1:30 p.m. (11:30 GMT) at his Brussels home. He was 59.

German-born Woerner had been NATO chief since July 1, 1988, when he succeeded Britain's Lord Carrington at the head of a bastion of the Western world.

Before that he had been defence minister under Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and though he originally studied law, he had long taken an interest in defence and security matters.

In February, only days after a fourth operation for intestinal cancer, Woerner displayed acute presence of mind at the dramatic NATO meeting which threatened the Serbs besieging Sarajevo with airstrikes.

He was born in Stuttgart on September 24, 1934 and his father was a textile salesman who set up shop in several German towns.

Woerner was also a trained fighter pilot as well as a long-serving politician in Mr. Kohl's conservative Christian

Algerian lawmakers adopt Sifi's programme

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian lawmakers on Saturday adopted Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi's government programme paving the way for changes to electoral laws ahead of legislative polls scheduled for late 1996 or early 1997.

The programme was approved after a four-day debate by 115 members of the interim national transitional council, with 11 voting against and eight abstaining.

It calls for new election laws, new party and information legislation, the deregulation of commerce and prices, and the privatisation of some state companies.

The government will phase out the state monopoly on banking and insurance in line with an agreement signed with the International Monetary Fund in April when Mr. Sifi came to power.

Mr. Sifi urged opposition parties to join talks on helping end a political crisis triggered by a bloody insurgency against the military-backed government after the armed forces cancelled the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win in January 1992.

President Liamine Zerrouk has invited eight parties not represented on the council — but not including the since outlawed FIS — to join the talks on Aug. 21.

Twenty-two seats on the 200-seat council have been left vacant for members of the eight opposition groups.

French crackdown

Most French voters back a crackdown on Algerian militants in France and feel Paris should pull out of the troubled country rather than risk fresh attacks from guerrillas, a survey said on Saturday.

See related story on page 12

Cabinet shuffles senior officials

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday accepted the resignation of the secretary general of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Marwan Awad, and appointed in his place the former director general of the Development and Employment Fund, Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Sami. The Cabinet also appointed Rashdan Mohammad Rashdan as secretary general of the Housing and Public Works Ministry, George Khalfi Haddad as secretary general of the municipal, rural affairs and environment ministry, Fami Yousef Oweis as secretary general of the Health Ministry, Dr. Safwan Toquan as director general of the Social Security Corporation, and Ali Mohammad Jaddou as director general of the Development and Employment Fund.

Killers of German sentenced to death

SULAYMANIYAH (AFP) — Two Kurds have been sentenced to death for the murder of a German journalist in northern Iraq, court officials said here Saturday. Zaki Said Abbas, a 32-year-old economic graduate, and Ismail Mohammad Mustafa, a 36-year-old taxi driver, were sentenced on Friday to be hanged for killing AFP correspondent Lissy Schmidt, they said. But the decision still has to be approved by the high court in April, they added.

ANC in tatters, Mandela says

SESHEGO, South Africa (R) — President Nelson Mandela, nearing 100 days in office, conceded on Saturday that his ruling African National Congress (ANC) party was in tatters. Making the admission before 4,000 supporters, Mr. Mandela promised to take charge of rebuilding the party, saying the problem set in after it won South Africa's all-race elections in April and senior members moved into government. "There has been complete dislocation and our organisation is literally in tatters because our leadership is not there," he told the rally in this northern South African black township.

PLO to send teams to Jordan, Egypt

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) decided Saturday to send two delegations abroad, one to Jordan to discuss peace moves with Israel and a second to Egypt to guarantee Arab recognition of its travel documents.

During the weekly meeting of his self-rule government in Gaza, PNA Chief Yasser Arafat briefed ministers on a visit to Jordan Aug. 7 by Faisal Hussein and Yasser Abed Rabbo.

The delegation was reportedly sent to discuss Jerusalem.

The July 25 nonbelligerency agreement between Jordan and Israel acknowledged Jordan's historical role in maintaining Islamic holy shrines in the city.

Mr. Arafat said the pact within Jordan violated his September autonomy accord with Israel by undermining Palestinian claims to the eastern sector of Jerusalem that they see as the capital of a would-be state.

According to the Sept. 13 accord, the future sovereignty of Jerusalem will be decided in talks over a permanent settlement that are to begin within two years.

The Palestinian delegation will leave soon for Jordan to continue the talks, said top Arafat aide Nabil Shaath. Jordan has said it has no bearing on the PLO's right to negotiate political sovereignty over Jerusalem.

"The Palestinian authority has decided to send a high level delegation to Jordan... to discuss with Jordanian officials bilateral relations and detailed discussions on issues in all spheres including tourism, education, health and communication," said PNA General Secretary Ali Tayeb Abdul Rahim.

Dr. Shaath added that the autonomy government would also send a delegation to Cairo to secure the Arab League's recognition of Palestinian identity cards and travel documents.

All Palestinians living in the autonomous Gaza Strip and West Bank area of Jericho have replaced their

former Israeli identity papers with Palestinian ones, but have yet to receive travel documents.

The PNA said Saturday it would be issuing the passports soon. In addition, burdened by increasing financial pressure, the PNA agreed to start collecting taxes as early as next week.

Dr. Shaath told Israel Radio before the meeting that he hoped Palestinians would pay the PNA the taxes they used to pay the Israelis.

Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May as part of the Sept. 13 autonomy accord with the Palestinians.

Part of the agreement stipulated release of 5,000 Palestinians being held in Israeli prisons. Israel has released over 4,000 prisoners and Israel Radio there are plans to release 249 more soon. No date was given.

The PLO would ask the Arab League, "to adopt the new Palestinian passport, new Palestinian birth certificates and so on, all the official certificates," Dr. Shaath said.

"We will also approach different countries of the world of such an adoption so they can be used by Palestinians here freely."

Under the self-rule deal the new Palestinian passport is to carry the wording "Palestinian Authority" and "Travel Document" in English and Arabic.

Identity cards will list details in Arabic and Hebrew to make it possible to use them within Israel.

Dr. Shaath also repeated to journalists that the Palestinian authority would start operating border crossings at Rafah from Egypt and the King Hussein Bridge, from the self-rule enclave of Jericho into Jordan on Aug. 21.

Dr. Shaath urged Israelis and Palestinians on Saturday to let and live together in Jerusalem and seek way to share the Holy City.

"As we have learned from peace to share Palestine, we

Argentina says no break in Iran ties

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — The Argentine government said Saturday it would maintain ties with Iran despite its accusations linking Iranian diplomats to the deadly July 18 bombing in Buenos Aires.

"Argentina will respect international diplomatic rules and we are going to continue our business abroad," Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella announced over the radio.

Argentina is seeking the arrest of seven Iranians, including three diplomats, for the attack on the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association that left nearly 100 people dead, 10 missing and 250 injured.

Mr. Petrella stressed the importance of keeping the lines of communication open with foreign countries, "particularly Iran."

Iran threatened Saturday to break off ties with Argentina and said it would take legal action against those who have accused Tehran in the bombing.

"Iran does not intend to maintain relations with Argentina at any price," warned state-run Tehran Radio.

It criticised Buenos Aires for making the allegations without providing any evidence to back the charges, based mainly on the testimony of Iranian Manucher Motamer.

"Argentine leaders have acted under pressure from the United States and Israel," the radio charged. "Now, it's trying to ease the tension with Iran in order to preserve its national interests."

Although Iran has vowed to cooperate with the investigation into the bombing, it could decide to break off diplomatic ties.

"Iran has decided to take legal action against those who have damaged its international credibility," the radio added, after Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati

Israel cannot afford to ignore Iraq — Ben Eliezer

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel cannot afford to ignore Iraq and its status as a regional power, a minister warned Saturday, denying however that his country was in secret contact with Baghdad.

An Iraqi diplomat in Amman, meanwhile, also denied an Israeli television report that his country had offered to open a dialogue with the Jewish state.

"We cannot go on not taking notice of the fact that Iraq, which holds an important geostrategic position, is a regional power," Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said over the radio.

But he denied the television report.

"I cannot say that Jews of Iraqi origin have not held discussions in London with Iraqis coming from Baghdad or that Israeli representatives have not exchanged a few words with Iraqi representatives at some function or another."

"But there has not been any contact or initiative between the two countries," Mr. Ben Eliezer said.

In Amman, Iraq's embassy spokesman Adel Ibrahim said in a statement that there was no truth to the television report.

The television said Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tarco

Aziz passed on a message through the ambassadors of two U.N. Security Council members, including Morocco, to Israel's representative at the United Nations, Gaad Yacobi.

The message called for the two states "to open a new chapter... stressing that President Saddam Hussein no longer considers the Jewish state as an enemy country" since the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal.

But Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres rejected the offer, which Israeli television said was designed to persuade the United States to help ease or lift the U.N. sanctions in place since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Iraq, a sworn enemy of Israel, fired 39 Scud missiles at the Jewish state, killing two people and damaging hundreds of buildings, during the January-February 1991 Gulf war which evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Asked on army radio if such a message was received, Mr. Ben Eliezer, himself Iraqi-born, said: "In my opinion, no."

According to the Israel Television report, Israel ignored the initiative on in-

structions from the United States.

It said, however, that some Israeli officials, including cabinet ministers, support open contacts with Iraq.

Iraq's government, still under punitive international sanctions imposed after its troops invaded Kuwait just over four years ago, has not officially criticised agreements signed by Israel with the PLO and Jordan.

Iraq has traditionally opposed Middle East peace efforts and was at the forefront of criticism of the 1978 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt.

Iraq has given no public hint of any overtures towards Israel. Iraq on Thursday criticised Jordanian suggestions Iraq could play an important role in the Middle East peace process.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraq's Culture and Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hummadi had "expressed his astonishment and regret" over the comments.

In a statement to INA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, he said: "Iraq's position on this entire issue is clear and known. No one has the right to speak on behalf of Iraq or

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PLO asks U.S., Russia to probe Israeli violations

TUNIS (AP) — A top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Friday asked the United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, to investigate "flagrant violations" by Israel of its self-rule accord with the Palestinians.

Farouk Kaddoumi, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said "Israel has escalated its arbitrary measures, confiscating more Arab land and extending Israeli settlements, most particularly in Jerusalem."

He telephoned a copy of the statement he sent to Washington and Moscow to the Associated Press in Tunis.

"We call on the co-sponsors of the peace conference, the United States and Russia, to form and send — together with other members of the U.N. Security Council — a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories," the statement said.

Mr. Kaddoumi, who is also the PLO's chief foreign affairs spokesman, said these infringements violated the principle of the PLO's peace accord with Israel.

"Israel has adopted a deceitful pattern of action to distort reality and the facts and has deceived international public opinion by exerting political and psychological pressure upon the Palestinian people," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

Mr. Kaddoumi opposed that agreement and late in recent weeks intensified his condemnation of Israel, accusing it of putting obstacles in the way of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Kaddoumi sent the request to Washington.



Farouk Kaddoumi

ton and Moscow with the approval of the Central Committee or PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is struggling to set up an interim Palestinian National Authority in the self-rule area.

The statement sent by Mr. Kaddoumi repeatedly referred to "we," inferring that it was sent in the name of the PLO.

If Mr. Kaddoumi was acting on his own, then he appeared to be going out on a limb, undermining the confidence and divisions within the PLO over the accord and the slow progress being made in establishing a credible and coherent Palestinian rule.

In recent weeks, he appears to have been staking out a position as the leading opponent within the PLO of the peace accord.

He has increasingly aligned

himself with Syrian-based Palestinian factions which consider the accord a betrayal of the Palestinian struggle for a homeland and vowed to wreck it.

Mr. Kaddoumi has yet to directly challenge Mr. Arafat, although he has been increasingly critical of his efforts.

He has warned that violence is inevitable if the Israelis do not agree to a complete withdrawal from all occupied areas.

He has also called for the revival of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, which was launched in December 1987 and which Mr. Arafat agreed to end under the peace accord.

Mr. Kaddoumi said Saturday that Israel's "hindrance of the peace process" may cause "the resurgence of apprehension, instability and chaos in the region."

These Israeli actions will also lead to the failure of Palestinian self-rule and prevent "a free and democratic election" in the autonomous territories, he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi said any settlement "should be based on U.S. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace."

Mr. Kaddoumi also said such a settlement should include Arab East Jerusalem. Under the Sept. 13 self-rule agreement, the PLO and Israel agreed to defer Jerusalem's future status until 1996.

The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of their independent state. The PLO believes will eventually emerge from the peace accord.



BLAST IN ISTANBUL: Police experts examine the site of a bomb blast in the Topkapı area. The blast injured several people. One of them, a Romanian, died in hospital (AFP photo) has terminal in the European part of Istanbul.

Zimbabwe urges quick solution to Somalia crisis

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has said the international community could not keep peacekeepers in Somalia indefinitely and urged its warring factions to settle their differences quickly.

"It must be made clear that it is not our wish to continue to deploy our soldiers in Somalia indefinitely and I am sure that other countries with forces in that country feel the same as we do," said Mr. Mugabe, whose country has lost three soldiers during peacekeeping operations in Somalia.

"Accordingly, we strongly urge the Somali people to find a quick solution to their differences, before the international community gets irreversibly impatient with the continuing conflicts and hostilities," he told about 40,000 people at a rally in Harare to mark the country's defence forces' day.

Mr. Mugabe made his remarks as the semi-official Herald newspaper published a message of condolence apparently from Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid on the death of a Zimbabwean peacekeeper at the hands of militia loyal to him.

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Iran has nuclear plans — U.S. official

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Iran is pursuing nuclear ambitions even though international inspectors have not found evidence of a programme to produce nuclear weapons, the U.S. arms control director said Friday.

John Holum, director for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, conceded that International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors twice went to Iran at Tehran's invitation and didn't find "any evidence of a nuclear programme."

Still, Mr. Holum insisted, Tehran's nuclear intentions were clear "in terms of their procurement activities, the kinds of reactors they're interested in acquiring."

He said there is a "great deal of evidence suggesting that they are, in fact, maintaining nuclear ambitions" because they are seeking civilian nuclear reactors capable of producing fuel for an atomic bomb.

"We have been convinced for some time that the Iranians are pursuing a nuclear weapons programme."

Iran has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty aimed at restricting the flow of nuclear weapons technology, thereby slowing the production of nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Iran denied Western charges that it was developing chemical weapons, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Saturday.

IRNA said the denial was made in a statement issued on Friday by Iran's mission at the United Nations in reaction to what it said were comments by U.S. senators accusing Iran of developing chemical weapons.

The statement said that Iran was contributing to efforts to implement chemical weapons conventions and continues to renounce the use of such weapons.

"Nevertheless, the United States, which was remarkably mute about Iraq's use of these horrendous weapons, continues to accuse Iran of harbouring an intention to develop a clandestine chemical weapons programme," IRNA quoted the statement as saying.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel invites Kuwait to trade fair

KUWAIT (R) — Israel has invited a Kuwaiti company to attend a trade fair in Tel Aviv but the offer is likely to be ignored because such a visit would break the Arab boycott of the Jewish state, officials said on Saturday. The invitation to the "Modern Living 1994" exhibition from Aug. 18 to 27 in Tel Aviv was faxed to the state-owned Kuwait International Fairs Company by the Israeli trade fair and convention centre, Kuwaiti newspapers said on Saturday. A spokeswoman for the Kuwaiti company confirmed such a letter was received on Wednesday but no reply had been sent. She said it had been addressed to the company chairman. He was away on holiday until early September. She refused to give further details. Officials said it was normal practice among Kuwaiti state bodies to ignore any invitation or contact that would constitute a breach of the boycott on direct trade with Israel. "Let us prove to the world that we are people looking forward for peace and friendship," newspapers quoted the letter as saying. "There is a new spirit in the Middle East, a spirit of negotiations, harmony and peace."

Cypriot refugees appeal to U.N.

DHERYNYIA (AP) — Greek Cypriot refugees Saturday appealed to the United Nations to help them return to their homes in Famagusta, a ghost town since Turkish troops invaded the island 20 years ago. The appeal was handed over to an officer in the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone dividing the island's Greek Cypriot-controlled south from the Turkish-occupied north. "We demand to be allowed to return to our homes as a basic human right and in accordance with security council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the Turkish troops and the return of the refugees," said the appeal. Hundreds of Famagusta refugees attending a rally at this town on the edge of the buffer zone could see the homes, church steeples and hotel towers of the former tourist resort shimmering in the summer heat about a kilometre away.

Nine drug smugglers killed in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Security forces have killed nine drug smugglers in an attack on a tribe near the Pakistani border, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Saturday. Eight hundred kilograms of opium as well as arms and ammunition were seized in the raid on the Narwuz tribe in the southeastern province of Sistan va Baluchistan. The tribe is at war with the authorities in the province, a transit point for drug trafficking from Afghanistan and Pakistan enroute to Europe.

UAE adopts strict steps to cut foreign population

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has adopted stringent measures to cut its large foreign community, with Asians expected to suffer most as they account for more than half the population.

The measures, to be enforced on Sept. 1, include restrictions on visas to domestic servants and families of expatriate employees, and a suspension of licences for small businesses.

Officials said the decision, endorsed by the federal cabinet recently, were made by a special committee created this year to redress what they called the imbalance in the demographic structure.

"The government thinks it is time to act before it is too late," one official said. "We hope such measures will bridge the serious population gap."

Less than 30 per cent of the UAE's estimated two million population are natives. The rest are from other Arab countries, Asia, Europe and the United States, making up more than 50 nationalities.

Indians form the largest single foreign community, estimated at 400,000, followed by Pakistanis, Iranians, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis and Filipinos. Their combined communities account for more than 50 per cent of the population.

Most of the Asians are unskilled workers attracted by high income in the Gulf state, which produces more than two million barrels per day of oil.

Expatriate account for nearly 50 per cent of the UAE's 700,000-strong workforce, because of the lack of native skilled manpower and the small local population.

According to the semi-official daily Al Itihad, suspension of licences will affect hairdressing salons, carpenters, tailor and blacksmith shops, laundries and other small commercial institutions.

The paper quoted Labour and Social Affairs Minister Saif Al Jarwan as saying "the number of such places has surpassed the local needs, causing 'stagnation and consequently unemployment'."

"We all can notice that the streets full of these shops but there are no customers. Why should such places remain here and harm our economy?" he said.

The new rules also include curbs on visas to the families of expatriate employees in the UAE.

Only a small group of employees will be entitled to bring in their families and they must have a monthly salary of at least 4,000 dirhams (\$1,090), according to the official news agency WAM.

Government officials said families already living in the UAE would be denied a visa renewal if their supporter does not meet the new terms.

Expatriates seeking to hire a housemaid should also have a monthly salary of at least 6,000 dirhams (\$1,635) and should pay an annual tax to the state equivalent to the annual salary of their maid. Low income foreigners already hiring maids will have to deport them.

"They are the strictest immigration measures in the UAE's history," a Western diplomat said. "Their exact impact on the society and economy will not be known until after some time. But surely they will trigger a mass exodus if they are fully enforced."

Israel, PLO to ask donor countries for \$30 million

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to ask donor countries for an immediate payment of \$30 million to allow the transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians, the Israeli finance ministry said.

The funds would come from the \$720 million pledged for this year by the international community for Palestinian self-rule.

"We agreed on a budget of \$54 million over a six-month period: \$30 million financed by international donors and the rest from the collection of taxes," a finance ministry official, Ehud Kaufman, told AFP.

The aid would help narrow a budget deficit and allow the Palestinian self-rule authority to take charge of education, health, social affairs, tourism and the budget.

The Palestinian minister of transportation, meanwhile, said three foreign companies had signed a contract on Friday to build a port in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad said the deal was concluded with Ballast Nedam of the Netherlands, Spie-Batignolles of France and Systems Engeneria SPA of Italy.

The project will cost around \$60 million, said Robert Schuddeboom of the Netherlands embassy in Tel Aviv, adding that his government was donating \$24 million.

A European Union official has said international donors are funding a range of projects to develop the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Dupla del Moral, the union's representative in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said: "I can cite a long list of projects which are coming to fruition now."

"The idea that donor countries are not paying a single penny is a bit exaggerated," he added.

He was speaking after the signing of an agreement to set up a rubbish collection system in Gaza City.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has repeatedly accused donor countries of failing to meet pledges to fund self-rule in Gaza and the Jericho enclave.

He discussed the self-rule authority's financial difficulties with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Donor states have complained of a lack of proper Palestinian accounting procedures, and have channelled through the World Bank only \$47.5 million of the \$720 million pledged for the first year of self-rule.

Mr. Moral said Mr. Arafat "appeared optimistic regarding outside contributions."

"By rallying their human resources and skills the Palestinians can help their economy," he said.

Mr. Arafat attended the signing of the project to clean up Gaza, the first phase of which will cost \$1.5 million.

Iran party says government 'thugs' attacked funeral

NICOSIA (R) — A liberal Iranian party said government agents and "thugs" beat up people attending the funeral of a nationalist ex-minister in Tehran on Friday and detained a number of them, including the party's leader.

The Iran Nation Party, which is not recognised by the Islamic government, said ferocious clashes broke out after armed "thugs" attacked the funeral procession in Tehran's Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery.

Two intelligence ministry agents put their guns on the head of (party leader) Dariush Forouhar and abducted him by force in a car," said a statement sent to Reuters by the party's overseas bureau in Frankfurt.

The attackers broke both legs of a party member with rifle-bullets and agents arrested a number of people, it said.

Iran's official news agency IRNA reported the funeral but mentioned no clashes.

It said Forouhar made a speech about the career of Shamseddin Amir-Alaei, who served as a minister in the early 1950s and again in the liberal-dominated provisional government which was installed after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Abequas accuse authorities of violating custody accord

AMMAN (AP) — The family of a Jordanian who has confessed to have killed his wife Saturday accused authorities of violating what they claimed was an agreement to share custody of the man's two children until an Islamic court decides their fate.

It was the latest twist to a saga that began with the killing of Nihal Abequa, 40, who was strangled to death by her husband Mohammed I. Abequa, 46, in her Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey Apartment on July 4.

Mohammad Abequa, who is in police custody, has confessed to killing his wife and fleeing with their two children, Lisa, 6, and Sami, 3, to native Jordan. He was arrested July 20 and faces first-degree murder and kidnapping charges in a Jordanian court. No trial date has been fixed.

Nihal Abequa's mother, Maryem Gussal, and sister, Nesime Dokur, are claiming custody of the children. Ms. Dokur has come from her Patterson, New Jersey home to try to win their case. Like the slain woman and her husband, Ms. Gussal and Ms. Dokur are naturalised American citizens.

The children stayed with Mohammad Abequa's mother until Thursday when they were handed over to the care of the Royal Palace, which put them and Ms. Dokur up in a government-supplied apartment.

The children are not allowed to leave the apartment until the court decides who will assume custody of them. No date has been set for a court hearing.

Adnan Abequa, Mohammad Abequa's brother, told a press conference that the authorities had violated what he said was an agreement with the government allowing for "temporary joint guardianship."

He said the agreement called for the children's paternal grandmother and Ms. Dokur to stay with them until a court verdict was reached.

"But security officials did not allow the children's grandmother to stay with them as agreed," he said. "Instead, they said she could see them for 10 minutes."

Government officials would not comment on whether such an agreement existed.

Ms. Dokur was not immediately available for comment. Her lawyer, Nancy Feinberg, declined to confirm or deny Adnan Abequa's account.

Mariam, Mohammad Abequa's sister, said she visited the children with her mother on Friday but was asked to leave the apartment after 10 minutes.

"I wanted to cook some food for the children, but Nesime Dokur told us she would take care of that," Mariam Abequa told the press conference. She said Ms. Dokur also had wanted to take the children out of the apartment but was prevented by security guards.

Saleh Mgharbi, the Abequa's lawyer, said the authorities had "clearly violated the temporary agreement" and that the Abequa family reserved the right to call off the accord if "such violations continue."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Pontomes on Heritage
18:30 News in French
18:45 Faith Pat Rover
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Quranic Leap
21:00 News in English
22:30 The House of Eliot

PRAYER TIMES

04:25 Fajr
05:54 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:40 Asr
16:28 Maghreb
19:28 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 632541
Anglican Church, Tel. 630851, Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot with winds north-westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 22/25
Aqaba 27/40
Deserts 20/37
Jordan Valley 25/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukkles Mazrahah 820425
Dr. Mustafa Hazzaiah 826024
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 826235
Dr. Yousef Radad 896301
First pharmacy 651912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nasroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646495
Shamsian pharmacy 637660
Nasroukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 647632
BRID:
Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032
Alquds pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ahmad Al Tariq 900806
Khafid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 677103
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 121
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 010230
Overseas Calls 623101
Central Amman Telephone 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khafid Maternity, J. Amn 642016

AMMAN MATERNITY, J. AMN.

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsian 664714
Shamsian Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843402
Al-Munshar Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666171/757
ZARQA:
Islamic, Al-Mahajra 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 771112/6
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarga National Hospital 09/900560
Roa Sina Hospital 09/986732
Al-Hilam Modern Hospital 09/90998
BRID:
Princess Beama Hospital 02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/27225
Roa Al-Nasra Hospital 02/247000
AQABA:
Khalid Haya Hospital 03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Bangkok (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
07:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:00 Madinah (RJ)
08:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:00 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Athens (RJ)
10:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:30 London (RJ)
12:00 Istanbul (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
13:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
13:30 Athens (RJ)
14:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:30 Vienna (RJ)
15:00 Rome (RJ)
15:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 Tunis (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
05:15 Anatolia (TK)
05:45 Rome (AZ)
06:15 Doha, Moscow (GF)
06:45 Moscow (RU)
07:15 Larnaca (CY)
07:45 Cairo (MS)
08:15 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Bangkok (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
07:30 Jeddah (RJ)
08:00 Madinah (RJ)
08:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:00 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Athens (RJ)
10:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:30 London (RJ)
12:00 Istanbul (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
13:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
13:30 Athens (RJ)
14:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:30 Vienna (RJ)
15:00 Rome (RJ)
15:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 Tunis (RJ)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman 5:30 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 650/450
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 120/70
Carrot 270/200
Cauliflower 900/700
Cucumbers (large) 180/170
Cucumbers (small) 370/270
Eggplant 180/160
Fig 450/350
Garlic 280/220
Grape 480/350
Lemon 200/180
Marrow (large) 420/300
Marrow (small) 420/300
Mushrooms 140/70
Okra 100/80
Orange 500/300
Onion (dry) 270/200
Pump 700/500
Sweet Melon 180/160
Pepper (hot) 250/180
Pepper (sweet) 280/180
Potato 420/280
Peaches 900/600
Tomato 120/70
Strawberry 700/500
Watermelon 70/50

Queen visits Aqaba to review development plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met with Fayez Khawaneh, director of the Aqaba Regional Authority to discuss plans for the development and zoning of the Aqaba shoreline.

Queen Noor urged the drafting of laws and regulations to guide development activities to ensure the safety of visitors and to protect and preserve the unique marine life in Aqaba.

The Queen and Dr. Khawaneh reviewed previous development plans and the importance of maintaining the balance between tourism, environmental protection and industrial development.

They also discussed design criteria for new development in the area based on the studies of a specialists committee formed by the Queen in the early 80s to monitor and guide the design of public development projects in Aqaba.

Queen Noor emphasised the importance of future development in the context of its benefits to the people of Aqaba, to help them improve their standard of living and to involve them in the development process.

The Queen stressed the importance of preserving the social and cultural identity of Aqaba, and the role Aqaba can play in promoting international exchange through tourism.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince meets with British deputy Princess Aisha opens youth camp

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court Saturday David Steel, member of the British Parliament, and a two-member delegation. The Crown Prince and the British team reviewed several issues, in particular, the Middle East peace process and related developments.

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha Bint Al Hussein Saturday opened Al Hussein Youth Camp activities for Jordanian women living and working abroad. The Princess toured the sections of the camp at Ajloun in northern Jordan and was acquainted with the participants' work, programmes and voluntary activities scheduled for the coming week.

New RJ president appointed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet on Saturday, in a meeting headed by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, accepted the resignation of the President and Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian (RJ) Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz and appointed Nader Abdellatif Dahabi to succeed him.

Mr. Dahabi was born in Amman in 1946, graduated from Al Hussein College and joined the Royal Jordanian Air Force as a cadet in 1964. He joined the Greek Air Force Academy in 1964 and graduated with a B.Sc. in aeronautical engineering in 1969.

In 1980 he joined Cranfield Institute of Technology in England and graduated with an M.Sc. in aeronautical engineering in 1982.

Mr. Dahabi obtained his second masters degree in public administration from Auburn University in U.S. in 1987.

He attended many technical and managerial courses throughout his service and was appointed to different posts. Before joining RJ last month, in what was considered a major administrative reshuffle, he served as the Air Force's Assistant Chief of



Nader A. Dahabi

logistics.

Mr. Dahabi has been awarded various medals and decorations during his service. He is married and has three children.

Envoy to S. Africa presents credentials

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Jordanian ambassador to South Africa Shabir Bak, Saturday presented his credentials to President Nelson Mandela in Pretoria and said Jordan was looking forward to enhancing ties with the people of South Africa.

Mr. Bak conveyed to Mr. Mandela greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and said that Jordan was seeking to establish the strongest possible ties with South Africa in various fields.

Mr. Mandela asked that the ambassador convey his greetings to the King and expressed hope to be able to visit Jordan in response to an invitation sent earlier to him by King Hussein.

The South African president said he hoped that peace and stability will prevail in the Middle East and that Jordanian-South African relations would be further strengthened.

The South African embassy here said that there was no word on the date a South African ambassador would be arriving in Amman, nor who the first ambassador would be.

According to diplomatic sources, the embassy, which is now temporarily housed at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman, will soon move to new premises.

South Africa is currently represented in Jordan by a four-member staff led by Chargé d'Affaires A. B. Greenham.

Mr. Bak had been the Kingdom's ambassador to Spain during the October 1991 opening of the Middle East peace talks in Madrid.

Cabinet approves Petra protection measures

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Measures for the protection of the red city of Petra are now under way in light of the political developments in the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, and the expected effects on Jordan's tourism industry, according to Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan.

The Cabinet has approved Dr. Adwan's request to raise entrance fees for non-Jordanian tourists into Petra from JD5 up to JD20, tourism ministry officials said Saturday.

Tourists wishing to visit Petra over a period of two days will be charged JD25 for a two-day pass, and JD30 for a three-day pass into the ancient city.

Amount of the measures approved by the Cabinet was limiting the daily number of visitors to Petra to a maximum of 1,500. The measure, however, is open to reevaluation in the future, after improvements in tourism services and facilities take place.

"Our main concern is the

protection of Petra and the development of infrastructural projects nearby the site," Dr. Adwan told the Jordan Times Saturday.

The increase in the entrance fee is expected to raise treasury revenues by JD7 million to be put to use for improving Petra's tourism facilities, said the ministry official.

Jordanians visiting Petra will continue to pay a JD 0.25 entrance fee as the new arrangements apply only to foreign visitors.

Dr. Adwan said that after studying Petra's "delicate situation," it was decided to apply selective measures to the ancient city, which archaeologists say is fragile and should be preserved if it is to survive.

The minister said that priority to visit Petra will be given to those tourists on extended stays in the Kingdom. This decision was made to protect the interests of the tourism private sector offering services to tourists, he added.

Tourism in Jordan is expected to prosper considerably with peace in the region looming, observers say.

Informed sources told



A young boy rides his horse through the famous but fragile Siq leading to the Nabataean city of Petra (File photo)

the Jordan Times that Dr. Adwan will participate in the Jordanian-Israeli tourism committee meeting scheduled to take place next Wednesday at Israel's Moriah Hotel near the Dead Sea.

It will be the first Jordanian participation at the ministerial level to the bilateral negotiations with Israel.

In addition, European airlines are already planning to organise direct flights into the country, and British Airways, a leading European airline, has decided to resume its flights to Jordan after they were suspended in the late 80s.

The Ministry of Tourism has started work on projects aimed at improving public services and facilities in Petra in preparation for an influx of tourists to the Kingdom, said the ministry official, adding that transportation facilities assume top priority on Petra's development agenda.

Medical reports suggest abuse in death of toddler

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-year-old boy in Jabal Hashemi Shamali, who seven days ago was admitted to hospital and died Tuesday, has been tortured and possibly sodomised, according to family members and medical reports.

Initial reports said that Yazan Khalid Masri was beaten by his brother. However, investigations revealed that the boy, who lived with his father, stepmother, his brother Yazan, 6, and sister Manal, 5, was apparently sodomised by his 15-year-old uncle Shadi, who also lives with the family, according to a close relative.

"We were informed by the doctor that Yazan was beaten badly and that he was apparently sodomised," a close relative of the family told the Jordan Times.

The relative said that the physician who examined the child's body informed the family that he found wounds that indicate that the child might have been sodomised before he was

severely beaten.

The examinations also indicated that the victim's skull was fractured and there were also needle marks on his neck and a rupture in the intestines from a hard beating to the stomach, he added.

The other two children, the relative maintained, were also abused by their uncle during the same period, and "medical reports said that there were bruises on the children's faces and other parts of their bodies."

"When we went to pick up the children after the incident we found them in a miserable condition and they were bruised," he said.

The children were forced to live with their father and stepmother after the victim's father Khalid Masri divorced his first wife Tahani, 27, and married a 16-year-old girl.

Tahani received her divorce papers last year, and her family forced her to give up her children to the husband, said the relative.

The day of the incident, August 6, Mr. Masri went

to visit some relatives and left the children with their teenage uncle, police reports said. When the father returned home, he found Yazan ill and vomiting.

He rushed him to the hospital. Yazan underwent surgery, but died the next day.

The relative, however, said that he was told by the two children who were at home at the time of the beating, that their uncle was sleeping, and Yazan started crying and woke him up. The youth became angry and started beating Yazan, he added.

In an earlier police report, Shadi told police that he had beaten Yazan to "teach him a lesson."

According to the relative, Shadi is in police custody. Police would not comment on the case.

Brother kills sister

A 29-year-old woman Friday was shot and killed by her brother in the Sweifish area in Amman, police and neighbours said Saturday.

Romina A. was shot five times in the head and chest

by her brother Ramon, 27, following a family argument, a next door neighbour told the Jordan Times.

According to the neighbour, the victim, who is a Christian, wanted to marry a Muslim man, but her family opposed the idea.

Friday evening, the victim told her family that she wanted to marry a Muslim man and they all started arguing, the neighbour said.

The argument became heated, Ramon went to his room, brought out a gun and shot his sister, she added.

"We heard gun shots and we went to check the matter and found Romina lying on the couch in a pool of blood. Her mother was screaming and was in a state of shock and disbelief," she said.

The victim was rushed to the hospital, but was dead on arrival.

Police would only confirm the incident and declined further comment. The authorities said that they have detained the brother until further investigation into the case.

Family escapes freak accident

Four members of a family Saturday escaped with minor injuries after a bus driven by a 29-year-old man crashed into their house in the Turkish suburb of Irbid, according to police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) sources.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the accident, which happened at 6:00 a.m., was the result of speeding.

He said the bus driver, Mohammad S., who was not carrying any passengers with him at the time of the accident, lost control of his vehicle and slammed into the house.

The bus driver was not hurt, the official said.

Meanwhile, Anwar, 1, Salam 3, Sharif Hussein, 6, and their mother, Munirah, are listed in fair condition at Princess Basma Hospital, a doctor told the Jordan Times. He said they are expected to leave hospital Tuesday.

Scientists focus on laser technology in medicine

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In opening the Second International Conference on The Use of Lasers in Science and Technology Saturday, University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh suggested that more concentration is needed in applying the positive uses of laser technology.

In his speech, Dr. Gharaibeh said that holding this conference was part of the constructive cooperation the university seeks to achieve with all local, Arab and international bodies. It is intended to stimulate collaboration among scientists, he added.

"This conference, at which top Arab and foreign scientists meet, was held to present research on lasers, the most important resource of rays," said Dr. Gharaibeh.

"The discovery of lasers is considered one of the most

important achievements of this age. Its applications and uses have a clear impact on several fields, such as: medicine, engineering, agriculture and other sciences."

Dr. Gharaibeh also referred to the dark side of laser technology, and its negative impact on humanity when applied to military weapons. To reduce the negative images of laser, "we should work hard to erase the laser's other name, 'Death Ray,' and replace it with 'Life Ray,'" said Dr. Gharaibeh.

Chair of the conference Riyadh Bitar listed the papers that would be covered over the three-day conference, at which about 150 participants from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Palestine, Italy, the U.S., and Jordan are participating.

Saturday's sessions included mostly papers on the medical applications of lasers.



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (second left) and conference chair Riyadh Bitar (second right) officiate over the opening of the Second International Conference on the Use of Lasers in Science and Technology

Archaeologists in Mafraq, uncover mosque, church and wine press

AMMAN (J.T.) — In first season of excavation, a Jordanian archaeological team supervised by Salih Sari, of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, recently uncovered a mosque, a church and a well-preserved wine press complex at Sa'ad, in Mafraq Governorate in northern Jordan.

The first archaeological campaign was carried out from June 4 until July 24 this year. The excavation was a research project funded by the Deanship of the Research and Graduate Studies of Yarmouk University.

Sa'ad is located 27 kilometres west of Mafraq city. It rises to a height of almost one kilometre above sea level.

The church, which measures approximately 25 metres by 14 metres, has a mosaic floor with polychrome geometric and floral patterns. There were figurative motifs removed by iconoclasts as revealed by the missing parts in the floor. The most remarkable element of the church is the Greek inscription.

The excavations unearthed the remains of an Umayyad mosque measuring 11.5 metres square. The mosque was constructed of regular and well-dressed limestone blocks.

Recently, the opening of a new road crossing the area resulted in a partial demolishing of the mosque's eastern wall. Three courses of well-cut stones are still standing in the southern and western walls. The Bayt Al Salar (prayer hall) and the Mihrab are well-preserved.

An impressive wine press was also unearthed. It consists of seven rooms, all but one with mosaic floors. The function of each room was to press the grapes. A pit is located in front of each room,

most probably used for filtration purposes.

At the centre of the press complex is a main hall, also with a mosaic floor. It too probably functioned as a grape-pressing area because of the presence of a wooden post visible in the centre.

The seven rooms as well as the main hall are connected to a big reservoir the wine was stored. The scale of the reservoir indicates that production served not only for the local consumption but also for export.

The sophisticated technique of the mosaic floors indicates that the village was economically prosperous during the Byzantine and early Islamic periods.

The artefacts collected from the site prove a continuous occupation since the early Roman period, probably earlier, up to the Ottoman period.

The site is still under investigation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify (the listed time and place with the concerned institutions).

FUNEIS FIFTH FESTIVAL

- ★ Comedy entitled "Punctured Bag" by Nabil Mashshini at the main theatre, off the Greek Orthodox Convent at 21:00.
- ★ Poetry recital by Lebanese poets Shawqi Bzai, Abdul Karim Shams Al-Din, Lami' Al-Horri, and Taha Haidar at the festival site at 19:00.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian scripts, documents, and books.
- ★ Abstract art paintings exhibition by Salwa Amman, Darya Zetifa, Norma Hattar, and Elias Tu'meh.
- ★ Exhibition on the city of Salt.
- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by Inad Hajja, Kifah Mahmood, and Khaldoun Gharaibeh.
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts.
- ★ Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participation of the private and public sectors).

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Dick Tracy" at the American Center at 17:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Art of Discovering Ourselves" by Dr. Joseph Majdalawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 18:30.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of new paintings by Diana Shamounki at The Gallery, Jordan Iner. Continental Hotel (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shamsan at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition of caricature drawings by cartoonist Hussein Al Farra at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balay' Art Gallery in Funeis (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Exhibition of water paints by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakht at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.

Lawyers to visit Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation comprising several presidents of professional unions in Jordan will head for Baghdad on Aug. 29 to express their unions' support for the Iraqi people and voice their demand for an end to the UN-imposed sanctions on Iraq, according to Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) President Kamal Nasser.

Dr. Nasser, who is to lead the delegation, Saturday said that now that the Iraqi leadership has complied with all UN resolutions, the time has come for the world community to end the embargo.

He said the team will take a gift of medicines and medical equipment to Baghdad, hold meetings with Iraqi officials and later address a press conference.

N. Korea, U.S. agree on nuclear issue but find more work needed

GENEVA (AFP) — North Korea and the United States agreed early Saturday a halt to Pyongyang's controversial nuclear programme and said they were ready to normalise their diplomatic and economic ties.

Welcome for the agreement was cautious from most sides and Western diplomats said "much work was left to be done" before the issue of North Korea's nuclear interests is settled.

In Vienna, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) welcomed the agreement but said many points remained unsettled.

Spokesman David Kyd said the main concerns of the IAEA — inspections of the North's nuclear facilities and the status of 8,000 fuel rods extracted from the Yongbyon nuclear reactor in June — had still to be decided, saying "everything is still up in the air."

Under the agreement, North Korea agreed to a halt to its controversial nuclear programme in exchange for technical assistance from the United States and a commitment to normalise economic and diplomatic relations.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, head of the U.S. delegation, said he was "pleased with the agreement" but "there are still many important issues that remain to be resolved."

The "lion's share remains

to be done," he said.

In Seoul, a South Korean Foreign Ministry statement said: "The government takes a positive view of the joint statement since it has made clear the principles to be followed by both sides in their further efforts to find an ultimate solution to the nuclear issue."

In Tokyo, within range of North Korea's Rodong missiles, which would be capable of carrying nuclear warheads, officials unreservedly welcomed the agreement.

"It's a great step forward towards solving the issue," a government source said, while another official said most of Japan's worries were taken care of by the accord.

And in Beijing, the Chinese government said it welcomed the accord and said "the relevant parties will continue to make constructive efforts to settle the nuclear issue as soon as possible."

In a joint statement announcing the agreement at the end of week-long talks, North Korea said it was "prepared to remain a party" to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which requires regular inspections of its nuclear facilities.

North Korea said that if a final agreement was reached it would "replace its graphite moderated reactors and related facilities with light wa-

ter reactors" which Washington believes are less likely to be diverted for military purposes.

One key issue yet to be resolved is the fate of 8,000 spent fuel rods corroding in a cooling pond near a nuclear reactor outside Pyongyang.

North Korea removed the rods from the Yongbyon nuclear facility last June, rejecting IAEA requests that it be allowed to properly monitor the operation in order to determine whether any of the fuel had been diverted to make nuclear weapons.

Despite international concern, Pyongyang has refused to allow the fuel rods to be processed in another country.

During the switchover from graphite to light water technology, the lost nuclear energy could be replaced by thermal energy or oil, said North Korea's first vice-minister of foreign affairs, Kang Sok Ju, who led his country's delegation.

Mr. Gallucci told CNN that the United States had not pledged any funds to help North Korea switch to light water reactors but would help North Korea find funding to do so.

Mr. Gallucci estimated the switch would take a decade and cost about \$4 billion. He suggested that an "international consortium" should be created and will hold talks with South Korea, Japan, China, Russia and others to

spread the burden.

South Korean officials Saturday predicted that North Korea and the United States — still technically at war with one another — would move towards diplomatic ties by establishing liaison offices.

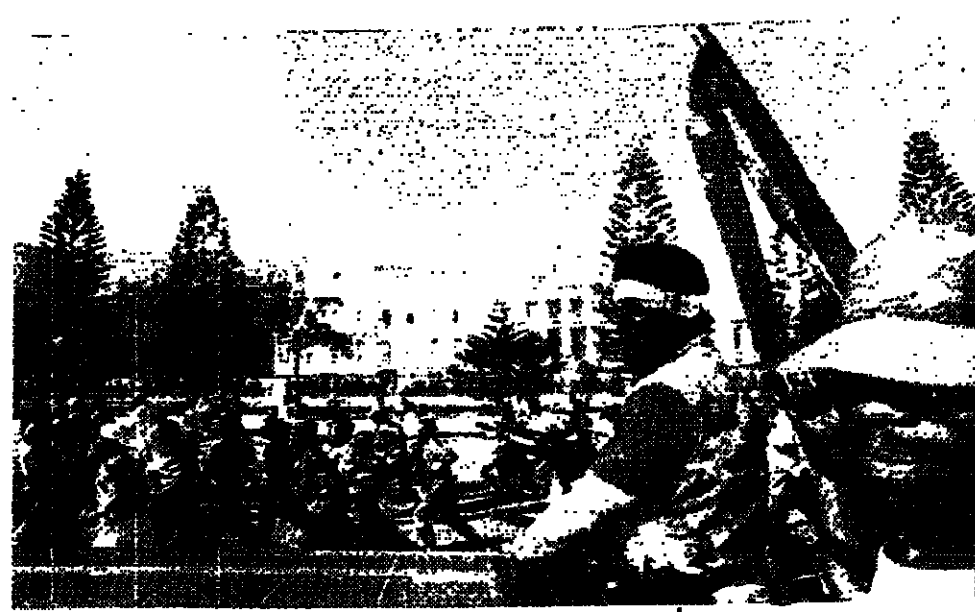
The prediction, carried by the South's Yonhap News Agency, came after Washington and Pyongyang issued an "agreed statement" at the end of nuclear talks in Geneva.

In the statement the two sides said they were "prepared" to establish diplomatic representation and reduce barriers to trade and investment.

"Although the decision has to wait until the next set of talks (due to start Sept. 23), they are most likely to agree on exchange of liaison offices," Yonhap quoted one official as saying.

The official added that preparation for the liaison office exchange and other details in the agreement could begin before Sept. 23, although no concrete action could be taken until after that date.

A senior minister, speaking against a backdrop of opposition criticism that Seoul had been left out in the cold, was quick to say the Washington-Pyongyang statement had provided the impetus to get the stalled South-North Korea talks going again.



Armed Haitian civilians observe the training of other civilians in front of the government palace in Port-Au-Prince to show their support for the Haitian military. Thousands of civilians have been training in military exercises in preparation for a possible U.S.-led invasion (AFP photo)

Haiti's Duvalierists relive bad old days

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Nationalist slogans and thousands of marching men brought a twinge of nostalgia Friday to supporters of Haiti's former dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

At least 2,000 unarmed soldiers and newly recruited militiamen grunted through the open gates of the presidential palace and double-timed through capital streets, some in white martial arts outfits.

They were led by Brig. Gen. Philippe Biamby, army chief of staff, who wore shorts and a T-shirt that read "unity, integrity, hierarchy, tolerance." Witnesses said thousands more men, many too young to have served the brutal Duvalier dictatorship, ran along on other downtown streets.

The training exercises were held to demonstrate the military government's determination to resist any U.S. invasion to restore the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

But to 59-year-old Nadas Agustin, a devoted Duvalierist, the show brought back memories of the dictator's rule, during which thousands of political opponents were murdered and the national treasury plundered.

The new militiamen represent the latest consolidation of army-led authoritarian power since the 1991 overthrow of Mr. Aristide — and another force that could be used to suppress Aristide strongholds.

"It's a great day," beamed Mr. Agustin, who said he didn't believe Washington would follow through on its threat to use military force if army coup leaders did not step down.

This (mobilisation) amply demonstrates the unity of the Haitian army and the Haitian people," Mr. Agustin added, wearing dark sunglasses as he stood outside army headquarters.

Nearby, a former member of Duvalier's dreaded Tonton Macoute militia was jubilant, matching the celebratory mood.

Gen. Biamby led his men in song outside headquarters, then looked on from a second-story balcony, beside a huge portrait of Haiti's patron saint, Our Lady Of Perpetual Help.

The recruits, some of them former soldiers, Macoutes or people just looking for a free meal, appeared disciplined and were respectful of foreign journalists, even during incendiary anti-foreigner rhetoric.

Far-right groups sought to scare away any potential U.S. invasion, saying American troops would face voodoo powders and zombies.

"Magic powder is better than bullets, than weapons," Franck Pierre, a leader of the small Capois La Mort ultra-nationalist group and a U.S. Air Force veteran, told the Associated Press. "The powder — phoooooo — period. You're a dead body."

Friday was the start of a four-day weekend in Haiti, called by the military-backed government to honour a Protestant prayer cycle and celebrate the Catholic Feast of the Assumption. Many people attended church, praying for a way out of economic depression and political repression.

Not all Christian groups, however, heeded recommendations from their church hierarchies to attend special weekend services.

"Prayer, pardon and reconciliation will never suffice to solve the problems of Haiti," the Catholic community group in Port-Au-Prince's St. Martin neighbourhood said in a statement. "Heavily armed attacks will never be reconciled with the humble people (who voted in the democratic elections) of Dec. 16, 1990."

Blarritz mayor orders sunbathers to cover-up

BIARRITZ, France (AFP) — The mayor of Biarritz town has ordered scantily-clad holidaymakers to cover up when leaving the resort's beach after traders complained clients were coming in their shops half naked, local officials said Friday.

Didier Borotra's measure stipulates that it is "rigorously forbidden for people wearing nothing more than a swimsuit to circulate outside bathing areas," adding notes that "public tranquility must be maintained and that the limits of decency must be respected."

Many young surfers on the main beaches of the Atlantic coast resort near the Spanish border were hostile to the new measure. "The mayor's decision is just typical of Biarritz. A city of self-righteous oldies," one sneered.

Mr. Borotra denied his measure, introduced at the beginning of the month, meant he was "a prude" and said "indecent outfits remain rare."

"However, he said he had acted on the recommendation of several shopkeepers one of whom recently reported a client had come in "wearing only the bottom half of her bikini."

The refugees south for the winter in Biarritz, just 100 km from the Spanish border, are a mix of people from all over the world.

Refugees are also packing up to trek to a beach ahead of a French holiday by August.

The refugees started and (U.S. dollar) (Shahin) we'll be lucky

Thais spend holiday cleaning the environment

BANGKOK (AP) — While most citizens enjoyed a holiday on their own birthday Friday, about 10,000 people spent their day off cleaning one of Bangkok's dirtiest canals.

Led by a boatload of traditional Thai musicians, a flotilla manned by government officials, students, boy and girl Scouts, reporters, and the curious took to the water to lend a hand in cleaning the 72-kilometre long Samsaeb Canal.

The mission began in one of Bangkok's oldest districts, and wended its way through inner-city industrial areas, where unidentified waste-water poured into the canal, creating frothy whirlpools and pungent smells. At some points, the smell was strong enough to cause some passengers to sneeze and cough while others covered their noses and mouths.

But all along the route, waterside residents cheered, waved and caught bags of fruit and candy thrown from the boats.

Disney bets Lion King can roar twice

BURBANK, California (AP) — Walt Disney Co. said it will pull the Lion King from U.S. theatres on Sept. 23, then release the film again with a new ad campaign for the Thanksgiving-Christmas holiday season.

The unprecedented move comes from a company that has enjoyed unprecedented success in finding new ways to exploit its animated movies. Disney films like The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast and Aladdin were released at Thanksgiving, with \$233 million in box office receipts so far.

The Lion King already has captured the lion's share of the summer market. By caging it while demand to see the movie remains strong, Disney is betting it can dominate two movie seasons with one film.

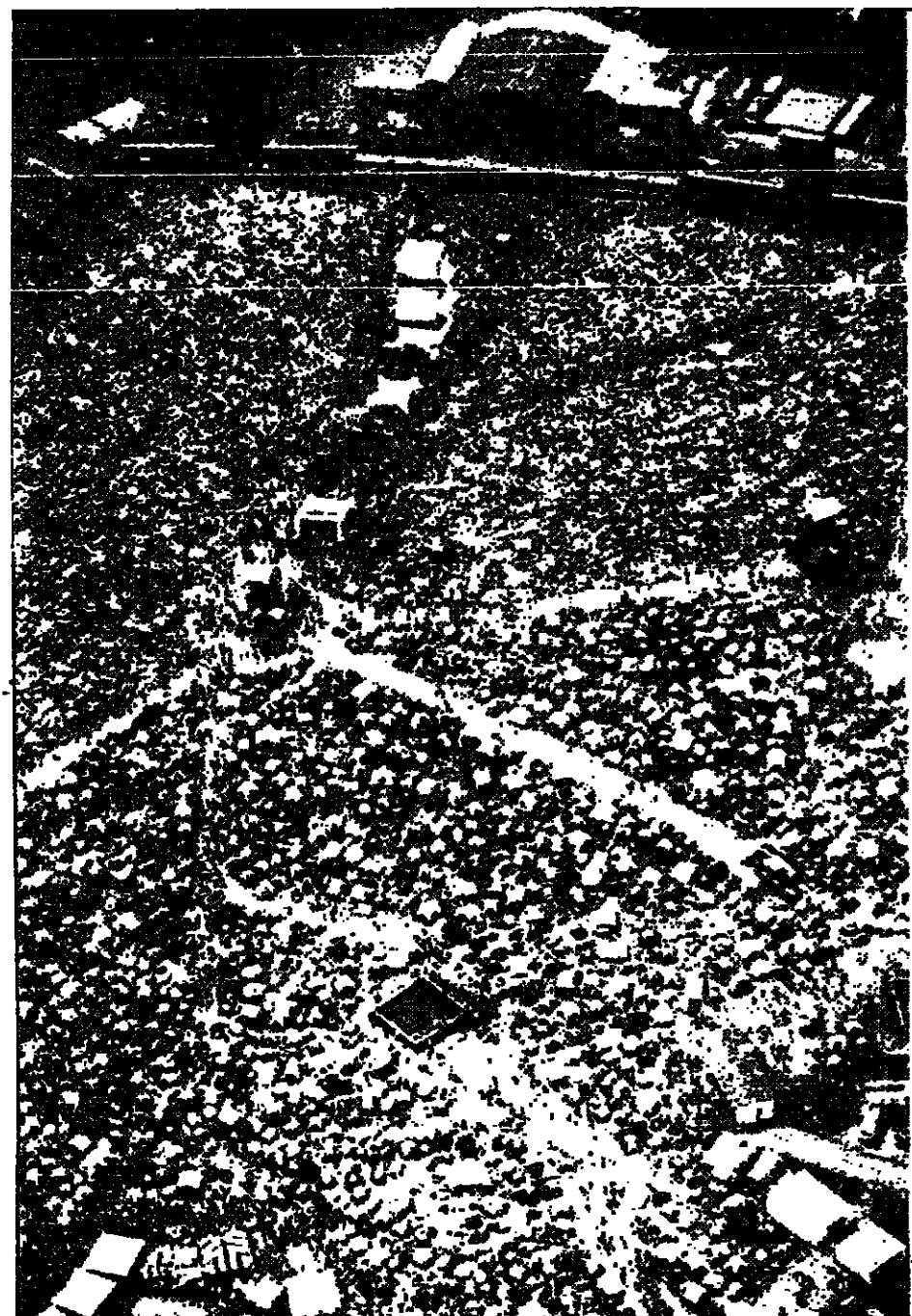
"I think it's one of the smartest things we've done," said Terry Press, spokeswoman for Disney's studio operations. "It's about getting the most value out of it at the best times of year."

The decision was first reported in daily Variety, which noted that The Lion King will disappear from theatres, just as the American school year begins, cutting attendance, and return during the students' winter holidays.

The movie is now in 2,355 theatres. Disney will clean the prints, prepare a new ad campaign and re-release it in about 1,500 theatres nationwide.

This year's holiday movie lineup is short on youngster-oriented movies. The Lion King's chief competition will be Twentieth Century Fox's remake of Miracle On 34th Street and Fox's Pagemaster, starring Macaulay Culkin.

Disney officials estimate the Lion King will reward the company with \$750 million in operating profits when word-of-mouth and video sales are complete. Counting licensing and sales of stuffed toys, key rings, T-shirts and hundreds of other consumer products, before-tax profits could exceed \$1 billion.



Some 75,000 people begin to crowd the main stage for the start of Woodstock '94 in original concert held in 1969 when 500,000 people attended (AFP photo)

Thousands camp out for Woodstock opening

SAUGERTIE, NY (R) — An estimated 200,000 fans camped out Friday night amid the wail of rock and roll, waiting for the official opening of Woodstock '94, an event organisers say will help bring the spirit of the original to a new generation.

The crowd, mostly in their 20s, is expected to swell Saturday as rock veteran Joe Cocker takes to the 650-foot (200-metre) wide north stage at 11 a.m. (1500 GMT) to kick off the festival.

Woodstock '94 is billed as offering two more days of peace, love and music to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the original festival that became a legendary event for the '60s generation.

Organisers were tight-lipped, but concert sources said the Rolling Stones — minus Mick Jagger — and Van Morrison would be making surprise appearances Saturday.

The crowd, camped out on an open farm field, seemed ebullient on having a good time. People played in the mud — as they did at the original Woodstock — and went topless, again just like

in the good old days. In a sign of the times — the '90s not the '60s — one naked man was seen holding a cellular phone.

The lineup, meant to appeal to the 20-somethings known as Generation X, include the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Porno for Pyros and Metallica.

Polygram Diversified Entertainment President John Scher, whose organisation put up the estimated \$34 million investment in the mega-event, said Friday that the concert was coming together "beyond my wildest dreams."

He said he had received more than one apology from reporters who had questioned the commercialisation of what was a landmark event for a previous generation.

The original Woodstock, at a farm 50 miles (80 km) away, became famous for the crowd of 500,000 most without tickets, and the ensuing chaos coupled with good will.

As ticket demand appeared to pick up, organisers here forced to halt sales

late Friday because the 11 parking lots assigned to the event within a 50-mile (80-km) radius were either filled or reserved for those who had not yet arrived.

They said that 207,000 tickets had been sold, entering the record books as the biggest advance sale gross in history, but far from the 250,000 tickets they had hoped to sell, an amount needed to break even.

While thousands were due to arrive Saturday, they estimated that at least 200,000 were already on hand — either with or without tickets.

But with the concession revenue, movie rights, pay-per-view television and a Woodstock album, a profit seemed a near-certainty.

On Friday, the unofficial opening day featuring local bands, proceeded smoothly, organisers said, although they admitted there were problems with the Hospital Wristbands meant to show that people had bought tickets and with delays in exchanging cash for the special Woodstock money that is needed to buy anything.

Although Labour is easily the second biggest party, the alliance has built up strong momentum and opinion polls show Mr. Anderson is the man most would prefer

N. Zealand government holds majority by a whisker

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — New Zealand's conservative government clung to its majority by a whisker Saturday by edging out the left-wing alliance in a tense vote for a vacant parliamentary seat.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger's National Party held the seat of Selwyn by just 346 votes from the Alliance to keep its majority of one seat in the 99-member legislature.

A defeat for National would have created a hung parliament and the possibility of an early general election — an outcome that Mr. Bolger had declared would be politically destabilising and damaging for financial markets and the economy.

"New Zealand's the winner tonight. We now can have stable government and get on with the growth, the expansion of the economy," he said in a television interview.

Politicians are political commentators said the closeness of the result, despite the buoyant state of the economy, was a sign that many voters distrust the government's policies on health reform, education and the welfare state.

"I believe in the health reforms, I think they're on the right track, but I don't think the people are getting the message," victorious National candidate, David Carter said.

"There's obviously still a lot of anger out there towards the government. I think particularly on social policy issues," political scientist Raymond Miller said.

The main feature of the result was the collapse of Labour's vote. It trailed to third with just 10 per cent of the vote, down from 37 per cent at the last election in November.

Labour leader Helen Clark, battling to assert her authority over a divided party and beset by criticism of her management style, blamed the outcome on tactical voting.

Alliance leader Jim Anderson said the voters of Selwyn "have given a lead to New Zealand and put National on notice that their days in government are numbered."

He added: "We are the alternative government of New Zealand. The people of Selwyn have told us that."

The result means National has 50 seats in parliament, with the Labour Party on 45 and the Alliance and populist New Zealand First on two each.

Although Labour is easily the second biggest party, the alliance has built up strong momentum and opinion polls show Mr. Anderson is the man most would prefer

Armenia gives green light to Russian peacekeepers, boosts investment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Armenia's first democratically-elected president began a quick nationwide U.S. tour Friday after endorsing the use of Russian forces to maintain the ceasefire in the Nagorno-Karabakh war in the Caucasus Mountains.

"Only Russia is prepared to contribute its forces for peacekeeping purposes... I have no choice," President Levon Ter-Petrosian said in an interview in the New York Times.

The president and members of his cabinet concluded a four-day official visit in Washington and flew Friday to Detroit, the first of three cities where he intended to promote U.S. investment and meet with Armenian-American community leaders.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian stayed at Blair House, the presidential guest residence, during a series of Washington meetings with U.S. and international leaders and officials, congressional leaders and executives of U.S. corporations, starting with a White House welcome by President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Clinton said after their Tuesday meeting that if all parties agreed, the United States would not oppose the use of Russian peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in Azerbaijan populated by Armenians seeking independence in the bloodiest ethnic conflict on former Soviet territory. The six-year war has cost 20,000 lives and uprooted more than one million people.

"What we want is peace and we want them to help rebuild Armenia and promote the development of the entire area," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian said at the White House that "the most important thing is the establishment of peace itself, and not who will do what."

Elaborating in the Times interview, he said Mr. Clinton told him CSCE, the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, should oversee the peacekeeping force.

Acknowledging there is opposition to Russian peacekeepers based on memories of Soviet rule, Mr. Ter-Petrosian told the Times, "I'm confident that the officials who are in power in Russia do not have a goal of

reestablishing Russia's empire."

Azerbaijanis accuse Armenia of tilting toward Russia and say any foreign peace monitors should be drawn from several countries.

Armenia has begun to achieve economic growth despite its devastating 1988 earthquake and the continuing conflict. Mr. Ter-Petrosian told business people in Washington.

"I think Armenia has already passed the critical stage" of post-Soviet development, he said in one speech, thanks to aggressive reforms including privatisation of farmland.

The inflation rate dropped from 82 per cent in January to zero last month while gross domestic production rose 2.7 per cent and industrial growth 4.7 per cent the first half of this year over 1993, the president said.

To continue growing, the Armenian economy now "needs oxygen," Mr. Ter-Petrosian said, in the form of new investment from the United States and other Western countries, he said, plus expected stabilisation support from the International Monetary Fund.

Berlusconi call fails to convince Bossi

ROME (Agencies) — The leader of Italy's federalist Northern League Saturday poured cold water on Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's attempt to unite his embattled coalition following the lira's collapse to record lows.

League leader Umberto Bossi, Mr. Berlusconi's largest political partner, criticised the media tycoon for telling Italians the good times had arrived. The day worries about the government's survival drove the lira to 1,030 against the German mark.

"Berlusconi went on television and told jokes," Mr. Bossi was quoted as saying in several Italian dailies.

But state television said the two politicians met in the small hours of Saturday morning shortly after Mr. Bossi made his comments for talks which were described as "frank and cordial."

In the interviews broadcast on Friday's news bulletins, Mr. Berlusconi called on Mr. Bossi to end the constant sniping that has helped

undermine the image of his conservative government.

"Bossi should behave in the responsible manner of a government partner. To discredit the government is to discredit the country," Mr. Berlusconi said in one of a raft of television interviews recorded after a black day on the markets.

"There is a moderate majority in this country which will govern with or without the League," Mr. Berlusconi, appointed in May after sweeping to power at the head of a right-wing alliance in March general election, later told reporters.

But in comments made after Mr. Berlusconi's speech, Mr. Bossi accused the prime minister of trying to divert attention from what he said were the real issues, like the League's plans for anti-trust laws to limit the concentration of commercial power.

Media tycoon Berlusconi became embroiled in a row last month over alleged conflicts between his business

and political roles after graft-busters probed his Fininvest company and put his younger brother Paolo under house arrest.

Investors have taken fright at the bickering between coalition partners, fearing the government could prove short-lived and that it lacks the cohesion to tackle a huge budget deficit.

Mr. Berlusconi's appeal got a lukewarm response in the Italian media Saturday, with several commentators questioning whether the prime minister should have brushed off the currency crisis.

"It is evident that the degree of unity in the coalition is not such as to allow any decision to be taken," said La Repubblica newspaper in a front page editorial.

Worries Berlusconi's government would not survive, or would not be strong enough to take tough economic decision if it did, drove the lira to a record low of 1,000 to the mark Friday.

Jordan Times

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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Jordan deserves support

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's call on the other Paris Club members to match Washington's investment in peace in the Middle East by ridding Jordan of its external debts makes a lot of sense.

The Middle East is of concern not only to the U.S. but also to other members of the club, mainly Western Europe which is even closer to the region geographically, politically and economically. Thus if the U.S. saw wisdom in investing in peace in the region it stands to reason that the other Western countries would do the same.

After all any such investment is not totally a benevolent one since a peaceful Middle East would in turn provide additional security and create a big profitable market for the West as a whole and not just to the U.S. A more stable region would certainly establish the right kind of environment that would be conducive for economic growth on a scale unknown before and make the oil supply lines even safer. The countries of the area would naturally look for the West for economic cooperation and trade. All in all therefore Western Europe stands to gain substantially from investing in peace.

It is true that Jordan is taking its risks for peace at a time when the country is still weakened by many factors most of which are attributable to the huge debt burden hanging over its shoulders. The country's ability to continue the path of building peace, however, cannot be expected to continue without a robust economy. The ability of the government to win wider support for peace with Israel is totally dependent on its ability to show the benefits of peace to the people. As long as unemployment is rampant and poverty continues to affect more and more Jordanians, the support for peace with Israel can only wane in due course. That is why the friends of peace are called upon to translate their pious commitments to reaching an Arab-Israeli solution into actions by relieving Jordan from its huge extra debt burdens whether emanating from the U.S. or Western Europe, or by stepping up economic aid to the Kingdom by rich Arab countries and Japan.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS natural and logical to see the official government agencies and departments embarking on measures designed to help the country prepare itself for the coming stage of peace in the Middle East as directed by His Majesty King Hussein, said Al Rai daily Saturday. The King's directives were reiterated and reaffirmed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in his addresses to public rallies held in Aqaba and Ma'an in the past two days, during which he reflected the Jordanian leadership's determination to stimulate hard work to attain the nation's goals and aspirations by deeds rather than words, said the daily. The looming challenges facing the country makes it imperative on all its citizens to reconsider past attitudes and patterns of work and study new and very objective and constructive patterns that can build up a modern state, capable of entering the coming decade with self-confidence, added the paper. The paper said that the calls of King Hussein and Prince Hassan are directed to the ministers as well as Parliament members and other officials and workers, urging them to build the institutions of a modern state.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Saturday criticised the French government for its current campaign against the Islamists in France who voice support for the Islamic movement in their home country. Salah Qallab said any move to oppress the two million Algerian community in France will backfire and implicate the French government in complications and will adversely affect French interests in France and abroad. Referring to a French government decision to step up security campaigns against the Islamists in France in the wake of the blast at the French embassy in Algiers, the writer said that by cracking down on the Algerians in France, the French government can achieve no positive results and can by no means stop the support of the Algerian people for the Islamic movement's actions in Algeria. The writer said that Algerian and French interests are so much entangled that it becomes imperative on the French government to take very cautious steps in this complicated issue.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Jordan's economy to prosper under peace

PEACE WILL reduce military expenditure which used to consume a sizeable portion of the budget. It will induce more local, Arab and foreign investments and enhance trade. But the most important result of peace lies in the removal of some negative factors and bottlenecks which were hindering economic progress in the desired speed.

The first negative factor that comes to mind is foreign indebtedness, which puts Jordan under pressure on annual basis. We don't know for sure whether or not the Paris Club will agree to reschedule instalments and capitalise interest which fall due within a year or a little longer period. The probability that it will not is remote, but it is nevertheless a real possibility, in which case a foreign currency crisis will be around the corner. Under peace conditions, it is hoped that at least half the foreign indebtedness amounting to \$1 billion will be written off. Rescheduling of the remaining balance will be taken for granted.

Prudent foreign investors would not be involved in a heavily indebted country, because its stability will be threatened constantly. International creditworthiness of a given country is not acceptable if its foreign debts exceeded 75 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP). Unless Jordan's indebtedness is somehow reduced from its present high level of 134 per cent of GDP to below 75 per cent, Jordan will not be qualified to attract meaningful foreign investments. In other words, no flow of foreign investment would be realistically expected before Jordan's debt is reduced to half its present level. Only peace can make that possible.

On the other hand, lack of external security is in itself an important economic subject of first degree. The building of large scale economic projects in Aqaba and near the Dead

Sea was a risky operation, because those projects were easy targets in case of armed struggle. Peace will remove that risk. It becomes possible to start more projects in any part of the country without having to worry about the element of exposure to the risk of destruction in case hostilities erupt.

Another result of the state of war is the fact that Jordan became a recipient of human waves of refugees and displaced Palestinians, which increased its burden beyond its means. The situation may get even worse when the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) eventually reduces its contribution or withdraw altogether due to financial or political considerations. Peace is supposed not only to protect Jordan from further human waves and continued influx of refugees, displaced persons, and returnees, it will also lead to the return of many displaced Palestinians, who came after June 1967 and will choose to return home once they are given the right to do so.

Water is a vital element of civilian and economic life. Jordan suffers a water shortage crisis which could not be dealt with except under peace circumstances. A fair distribution of common water resources will help Jordan to deal with this crisis, allow civilian and industrial growth and minimise the hardship.

Finally, Jordan was subjected to trade boycott by Israel, not only in the Israeli market, but also in the West Bank market. Peace is supposed to give Jordan access to the West Bank market, which will encourage growth in the fields of industry, agriculture and services.

Although foreign aid to Jordan may increase substantially after peace, yet the most important assistance is what the Jordanian people can extend to itself through hard work and higher efficiency.



M. KAHIL

'Big brother' surveillance sparks debate in FranceBy Paul Taylor
Reuter

PARIS — France claims to be the motherland of liberty, but a spate of recent criminal cases has sparked debate over the extent of "big brother" surveillance.

Should a judge be able to order the tapping of a member of parliament's home telephone in a tax investigation?

Should police and even private detectives be granted access to electronic recorder that make it possible to trace a credit card owner's every step?

Should the police and private security companies be entitled to keep an unsupervised public under video surveillance?

Should itemised telephone data be used to trace any call months after it was made from a private home or hotel?

These are only some of the ethical questions raised by detection techniques made possible by new technology.

In philosophical terms, the debate pits those who argue that crime fighters should be able to use every available means to track down increasingly sophisticated criminals, while honest citizens have nothing to hide, against civil libertarians who fear a creeping, sinister invasion of citizens' privacy.

In political terms, it pits right-wing Interior Minister Charles Pasqua against Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

Mr. Pasqua last month presented a bill to senate authorising video surveillance in areas with a high crime risk and allowing the police to stop and search vehicles for weapons in the vicinity of demonstrations.

Mr. Mitterrand voiced concern at what he called encroachments on fundamental civil rights.

He said video surveillance should be under the

control of the National Commission on Information Technology and Freedom (CNIL), an independent data-protection watchdog.

Mr. Pasqua refused, saying video surveillance already existed in a legal vacuum and his law would limit and codify its use. He pledged to make authorisation subject to the approval of a commission of jurists and businessmen.

Mr. Mitterrand also said the proposed car searches risked undermining the basic freedom to demonstrate. Mr. Pasqua retorted that the right to protest did not include a right to violence.

"In philosophical terms, the debate pits those who argue that crime fighters should be able to use every available means to track down increasingly sophisticated criminals...against civil libertarians who fear a creeping, sinister invasion of citizens' privacy."

"We cannot allow some people to walk around armed with impunity," the minister said.

Both sides in the debate agree that modern technology makes it easier than in the past to spy on the citizen.

Joel Boyer, head of the CNIL's legal department, said that as long as the storage of data was legally regulated and citizens had the choice not to use technologies, such as cards, that identified the user, liberty was not at risk.

"Alongside technological surveillance, we need a permanent ethical surveillance," he said in an interview.

Among revolutionary changes has been the proliferation of credit cards incorporating microchips

which makes it possible for police or banks to retrace each transaction or cash withdrawal.

Last month, Paris police released to the media a picture of a man photographed by a hidden surveillance camera drawing money from a cashpoint in the street using the microchip card of a woman murdered a few hours earlier.

While television stations prudently described the man as a witness the police wished to interview, a newspaper immediately branded him the "cash card killer."

Digital telephone switchboards or key cards used

the record of his motorway toll card to cast doubt on his evidence.

In the same case, police used computerised hotel telephone records to prove that officials to Mr. Tapie's Marseille soccer club had been in touch with players on the opposing team the night before an allegedly rigged match.

Mr. Boyer said state-owned France Telecom was bound by law to store itemised telephone records for one year in case bills were challenged. Police could only access such records if authorised by a judge in a specific investigation.

He cited the case of a hotel which used itemised phone records to trace a guest who had left without paying, by calling the numbers he had dialled until it obtained his address.

The CNIL now recommended that hotels wipe telephone records as soon as a guest has paid his bill, Mr. Boyer said.

Telephone tapping and bugging are nothing new in France. In the early 1970s, security men were caught red-handed installing bugs in the walls of the satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaîné. No one was ever prosecuted.

Only last year, the newspaper Liberation revealed that in the mid-1980s, a now-dissolved security unit in Mr. Mitterrand's office had intercepted the phone calls of journalists, lawyers and even an actress who was a friend of a top presidential aide.

But when a Paris judge had Mr. Tapie's telephone bugged last month in a probe into alleged tax fraud, critics said the move was a disproportionate infringement on the MP's rights. A transcript of one call was leaked to the press.

The national assembly has since passed an amendment stating that the speaker must be notified if a member's phone is tapped.

U.S. says 'soon' but never 'when' about Haiti invasionBy Lisa M. Hamm
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The Clinton administration's continuing reluctance to set a deadline for Haiti's military regime to step down sounds a new note on a now-familiar theme: Bare the teeth, but don't bite.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher reiterated the U.S. position Tuesday in Shannon, Ireland: "We are not giving them an ultimatum or setting a deadline at the present time."

The United Nations, at U.S. urging, has authorised the use of force, if necessary, to overthrow Haiti's brutal army rulers and to reinstate elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a 1991 coup.

"It's time for them to go," President Bill Clinton has said often.

But when? The United States has found scores of ways to get around that question, while hoping international sanctions against Haiti will succeed in forcing out the army leaders without an invasion.

An invasion "is not imminent if you measure imminence in terms of today, tomorrow, in hours and days," William Gray, Mr. Clinton's special adviser on Haiti, said July 13. "But we're going to look at our options."

In the Haitian capital of Port-Au-Prince over the weekend, U.S. Ambassador William Swing belittled the army's latest assertions of defiance as "the dying gasps of a spent force."

He used the exact same expression three months earlier to describe the new army-installed government headed by President Emile Jansaint.

"The time of negotiations is over," U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger said in mid-July, after 14 naval ships carrying nearly 3,000 Marines moved into position off Haiti. "We cannot wait a long time."

A few days later, Mr. Gray told the Associated Press, "there is no deadline," for

Haiti's military leaders to get out. "We do not draw a line in the sand. We expect them to leave and leave immediately."

U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said the ambiguity was deliberate. "We have not said what 'soon' means specifically, because we want the pressure here to work," she said.

Mr. Aristide has sounded the same vague note. "The day of my return is not far off," he told his countrymen in the inaugural broadcast last month of Radio Democracy, transmitted from U.S. planes flying over Haiti.

He didn't say when. Earlier this week, Mr. Aristide said in Washington that his return would be a matter of days. A U.S. official, similarly indeterminate, said it would be more like weeks.

No matter how vague the language about invasion timing, the army commander, Lt.-Gen. Raoul Cedras, seems to take the threat seriously — especially since the U.N. vote. He told CNN over the weekend, "it's been decided to invade... and we are getting ready."

The Haitian army paraded a group of new recruits, many of them teenagers and old men, in the litter-strewn park between the national palace and army headquarters in an attempted display of strength.

Meanwhile, the U.S. flotilla stands by, enforcing the trade embargo, and waiting. Its leaders are no less ambiguous about the likelihood of an invasion.

"They are trained to go in specifically to evacuate people, and leave. They are not trained to be an invasion force," Lt. Jeff Breslau of the U.S. Atlantic Command said, in announcing two more warships were headed for Haiti.

Then he added, "the military option is open and they're trained to conduct other types of operations."

While the rhetoric continues, Haiti's impoverished and frightened people sit and wait.

Cuban authorities respond to unrest with offensiveBy Frances Kerry
Reuter

HAVANA — Cuban authorities have responded to last week's unprecedented street clashes in Havana with an aggressive offensive, rallying support for the revolution and furiously condemning the United States.

By Monday, there was little sign that the capital of the Communist-ruled Caribbean island had been shaken Friday by a rare display of public discontent.

But groups of police and civilian law enforcement brigades still manned some street corners in the troubled area along a stretch of the Malecon sea-front drive where people throwing rocks clashed for several hours with police Friday.

Authorities said 35 people were injured and an "important" number arrested.

Culminating a fever of pro-revolutionary activity since the unrest, hundreds of thousands of Cubans — officials put the figure at 600,000 — were mobilised for a mass rally in the capital's revolution square Sunday evening.

The gathering, given blanket coverage by state-run media, was intended both to honour a policeman killed in a ferry boat hijacking last week, and to deliver a resounding response to the disturbances.

In a heating up of Havana's long-running war of words against Washington, blame has been squarely pinned on the United States by officials from President Fidel Castro down.

The key argument, playing on nationalist sentiment and used forcefully over the last few days, is that Washington, which maintains a longstanding economic embargo against Cuba, wants to bring the country to its knees, create disorder and then intervene militarily.

"The logical close of this strategy to destroy the revolution would have to be the direct intervention of U.S. forces in Cuba," said the official trade union newspaper Trabajadores in an editorial Monday.

Mr. Castro threatened to flood the United States with Cuban emigrants if Washington did not change an immigration policy that Havana views as stimulating illegal exits.

Admitting, as Mr. Castro did Saturday, that there is a degree of discontent in Cuba amid the current economic crisis, the newspaper said the key response on the "strategic, economic, political, ideological and military" fronts had to be the battle to increase food production.

The island was plunged into difficulties by the collapse of its former aid and trade partner the Soviet Union. With imports slashed and domestic production badly hit by lack of supplies, Cuba's 11 million inhabitants are facing chronic shortages of just about everything.

As the "special period" drags on despite current cautious economic reform, the number of people leaving the island illegally by sea to cross to Florida has jumped this year.

And many Cubans grumble openly about the shortages of food, transport and power.

"Things are very hard and many people are fed up," said one woman sheltering in an apartment entrance as rocks flew on a street behind the Malecon last Friday. "But violence is not the solution."

Authorities have presented the people involved in the disturbances, triggered by a spate of ferry boat hijackings toward the United States, as delinquents, "anti-social elements" and vandals, manipulated by U.S. propaganda.

Bouez: Breakthrough possible

(Continued from page 1)

Golan. The Syrian Al Baath newspaper Friday said Syria was working "very seriously" toward a settlement with Israel.

In Washington, State Department spokesman David Johnson said: "Both parties in the talks are seriously engaged, through the United States, in a probing discussion of the needs of the other."

PLO to send team to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

have to learn in peace to share Jerusalem," Dr. Shaath said in an Israeli radio interview.

prayed at the Al Aqsa Mosque — Islam's third holiest shrine — on Friday.

Dr. Shaath spent Friday night in Jerusalem and returned to the Gaza Strip on Saturday to attend the meeting of the Palestinian authority.

'Israel cannot ignore Iraq'

(Continued from page 1)

extend to us invitations we do not desire," he said. "However, if Iraq will take such a decision at this particular stage, we will have to wait and see."

"I think Iraq can play an important role in these matters," he said. "However, if Iraq will take such a decision at this particular stage, we will have to wait and see."

He responded by saying that Israel should be asked whether it wanted Iraq involved in multilateral negotiations on issues like security, economic cooperation and water.

Mr. Hummadi's remarks were published in the Iraqi newspaper Babel, which is owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, on Saturday.

Woerner passes away at 59

(Continued from page 1)

Soviet Union's satellites in Eastern Europe discard communism, the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the signing of a landmark European arms accord and a major war in the Gulf against Iraq.

a NATO fighter shot down a Serbian plane violating the ban in February 1994, it marked the alliance's first combat action in its history.

At the same time, a NATO threat of air strikes forced the Serbs to withdraw their siege guns from around Sarajevo.

His own country absorbed formerly communist East Germany, bringing it under NATO's protective umbrella. The alliance forged new diplomatic and military links with its old enemies, restructured its forces and rewrote its strategy.

Only last week, NATO planes were in action again — hitting a tank destroyer near Sarajevo to punish Bosnian Serbs who had snatched heavy weapons from a U.N. depot.

Woerner fell seriously ill with cancer of the colon in 1992 but continued to maintain a punishing work schedule.

He underwent another operation in 1993 and then again early this year. He interrupted his convalescence several times to chair vital NATO meetings on the crisis in Bosnia, often against the advice of his doctors.

When the crisis in former Yugoslavia brought conflict to Europe for the first time since World War II, Woerner pushed hard to create a role for a NATO alongside the United Nations.

Woerner is survived by his second wife, Elfriede Hartwig. He had no children from either marriage.

The alliance helped enforce a U.N. ban on flights over Bosnia and when

Argentina: No break in Iran ties

(Continued from page 1)

on Friday described Mr. Motamer as an impostor. A relative of Mr. Motamer said a childhood of hardship pushed the man to lie against Iran, the Iranian news agency said.

Argentina has meanwhile stepped up security following warnings of the possibility of another attack like the July 18 bombing.

Police and security forces beefed up troop strength at the borders, airports, hydroelectric dams, communications centres and other strategic points, the government said.

It quoted Majid Izadifard, his brother-in-law, as saying Mr. Motamer's financial troubles and his childhood as an orphan pushed him to "play a part in the propaganda campaign launched by the U.S. and Israel against Iran," the agency said.

The coast guard reported that it has apprehended a man carrying a fake French passport trying to enter the port in Buenos Aires and head on to Uruguay. BBC radio reported that he was an Iranian national.

"Living in an orphanage caused Motamer to develop psychological complexes," IRNA quoted Mr. Izadifard, said to be Mr. Motamer's close friend and former business associate, as saying.

Helicopters are overflying potential targets to monitor any suspicious activity and parking has been banned in front of likely targets within the capital.

"Based on my 17-year-long acquaintance with Motamer, I dare say, financial problems have forced him to make up such stories about Iran," said Mr. Izadifard.

An estimated 250 doctors, 150 surgeons, 33 hospitals and rescue workers were also put on alert, said the government, which stopped short of declaring a state of emergency.

Argentina used Motamer as its sole witness against the Iranians sought for the attack.

Police in Santa Fe province, about 500 kilometres north of Buenos Aires, have doubled security at Jewish institutions after intelligence sources warned of a possible attack there.

His testimony, given in Venezuela, was the basis for international warrants issued for the arrest of the officials.

Argentina — bordered by Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia — has a large concentration of Jews, many of whom fled to Argentina during World War II to escape Nazi Germany.

France indicts 2 suspects

(Continued from page 12)

self-defence." He added: "Anyone who helps the Algerian regime must be considered a criminal."

Mr. Messai said his organisation could call on a hard core of 200 militants but could mobilise up to a thousand for street demonstrations. Unofficial figures say 20,000 Algerians live in Britain.

Bangladeshi soldier killed

(Continued from page 12)

frontier to salvage Gulf war weapons, violating U.N. procedures on recovering equipment left over from the conflict.

The Iraqi government has refused to recognise the demarcated border. The demilitarised zone extends five kilometres into Kuwait territory.

UNIKOM's mandate was widened to include use of physical force to prevent or redress violations of the demarcated border.

Is Clinton's overexposure part of his problem?

By Steve Holland
Reuters

WASHINGTON — He speaks so much in public his throat is often raw, he has offered opinions on everything from Bosnia to Zexer shorts. He is photographed running, walking, standing, stretching, gesturing, even sweating.

But in spite of all his exposure, or perhaps partly because of it, U.S. President Bill Clinton now has relative low popular support in America — an approval rating of only 47 per cent in a Washington Post-ABC news poll out this week, backing of just 42 per cent in a recent USA Today survey.

Can it be that the president is overexposed?

"There's no question that the currency has been devalued," said political expert Thomas Mann of Washington's Brookings Institution. "The president speaks too much — too little in formal settings and too much in informal settings. He's always being photographed and recorded, videotaped, offering observations and explanations that make him sort of commonplace."

White House officials admit the overexposure problem has been, as one described it, the subject of many meetings and the subject of a lot of scratched heads.

"We've been concerned about that for quite some time," this official said. "He's overscheduled."

Mr. Clinton's new chief of staff, Leon Panetta, recognises the problem. When Mr. Clinton recently announced stepped-up aid for Rwanda's refugee crisis, he was supposed to deliver an opening statement, then leave other officials to answer questions.

Instead, he stayed on to field a few himself — and when Mr. Panetta heard that,



AN OVEREXPOSED PRESIDENT: Partly because of his overexposure President Clinton now has low popular support (AFP photo)

he ran down the hallway towards the press room, his face livid.

"Why is he still in there?" he was overheard shouting. "It's supposed to be 'thank you' and out of there."

The danger in such impromptu news conferences, as Mr. Clinton advisers see it, is that he will be drawn into

questions that run counter to — and obscure — the day's message.

But indicative of Mr. Clinton's tendencies to gab at every opportunity, he mused aloud after his Rwanda appearance that he should have answered a question about the baseball strike.

Mr. Panetta has promised

some changes in the operation of the White House, and the Communications Department has been a subject of some criticism. There has been speculation inside the White House that a shakeup will take place.

Mr. Clinton likens his popularity problems to those of Harry Truman, who tried

to address national problems and controversies in the immediate post-war period.

"Harry Truman's popularity drop from 80 per cent to 36 per cent to keep our eye on the ball, to rebuild the country and recapture the rest of the world," he said at a Democratic Party fundraiser re-

cently.

But his backers are perplexed that Mr. Clinton does not seem to be getting credit for an economy improving on his watch. The Post-ABC poll said 50 per cent of Americans disapproved of his handling of the economy, even though nearly four million new jobs have been created since he took office 18 months ago.

He and his staff believe his ratings have also been hurt by an expensive campaign waged against his health care reform plan.

"When you're in the middle of a very difficult battle and you're fighting an enormous group of special interests who have an interest in preserving the status quo, you take your share of the licks," spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said.

But Mr. Clinton has many problems clawing at him, including the Whitewater land-deal investigation, sexual harassment claims pressed by former Arkansas employee Paula Jones, Haiti, North Korea, Bosnia and a variety of the character issues.

Add now the name of Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy. The Justice Department has asked a court to appoint an independent counsel to investigate charges Mr. Espy took illegal gifts from a chicken processing firm, part of an industry he oversees.

Analysts see the nagging Mr. Clinton character issue as devastating when combined with public distrust of government.

"Clinton's problem has very little to do with policy," said Larry Sabato, a political scientist at the University of Virginia. "It has everything to do with his persona. He is intensely disliked by a large segment of the American public, and nothing that he does will change their minds, nothing."

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Mr. Clinton's popularity problems to those of Harry Truman, who tried

By James Jakwey
Reuters

LAGOS — Moshood Abiola, who claims Nigeria's presidency, and general Sani Abacha, who holds it, are locked in a struggle neither seems able to win or to break off.

After more than a year of crisis the country is paralysed by strikes and periodic riots. Ethnic tension between north and south is rising. Analysts say no end is in sight.

"Abacha is not going to cede power to Abiola and Abiola cannot now withdraw his challenge," says a western diplomat.

"We are looking at a stalemate that means a long period of unrest for Nigeria unless one party is persuaded to give way. Right now that does not seem likely. Abiola, a millionaire businessman heading for victory in a June 1993 presidential election when Gen. Abacha's military predecessor, who had repeatedly promised to restore democratic rule, voided the vote.

Gen. Abacha took power in the resulting anarchy. "Mr. Abiola, struggling to regain his election momentum, proclaimed himself president on the anniversary of the poll, the first time a defiant civilian has presented army rulers with such a challenge."

His arrest on charges of treason, a capital offence, sparked street protests that have killed up to 100 people, according to human rights groups.

"This is the first time in the criminal history of the world that someone who won an election is being charged for treason," said crusading Lagos lawyer Femi Falana, a leading member of the Campaign for Democracy pressure group.

Mr. Falana and many other Yoruba-speaking southwesterners news are highly resentful of the fact that the first of their kinsmen to come so close to political power was not only cheated of it but now faces a humiliating trial.

"Nigerians, whether northerners or southerners, want the military out of power. But in the southwest the people feel it is also a matter of injustice to them," says a former politician.

Most of the riots have been in the southwest, which includes the commercial capital Lagos but not the political capital, which army rulers had moved to the inland city of Abuja.

Oil workers demanding Mr. Abiola's installation as president have paralysed Nigeria with a strike.

Now there are threats to



A SHORT-LIVED HAPPINESS: Moshood Abiola, who claims Nigeria's presidency but is currently behind bars, laughs during the country's cancelled elections which he unofficially won (AFP photo)

Nigerian rivals locked in stalemate

halt exports of crude oil, the only significant source of foreign income.

The oil unions remained adamant even when the umbrella Nigerian Labour Congress suspended a short-lived general strike to try to negotiate Mr. Abiola's release.

Those negotiations led to the high court offering Mr. Abiola bail — on conditions which effectively meant the end of his campaign for the presidency.

He turned the offer down.

The trial resumes in Abuja next Tuesday when the charges against Mr. Abiola are widely expected to be dropped.

"If nothing happens on Tuesday then we can expect an eruption of violence in the southwest," said an observer.

"The oil unions will be

steadfast in this struggle because for us it is a question of now or never," said Walebi Agamene, president of the Blue-Collar Workers Union Nupeng, which set off the strike last month.

Nigerian oil is pumped in the south but because northerners dominate the government, much of the proceeds goes to projects in other areas, leaving the oil-producing areas neglected.

For the past two years there have been clashes between oil-producing communities and oil firms whom they accuse of devastating their areas ecologically and leaving nothing behind.

"We are supporting Abiola because his case is like that of oil-producing areas," Mr. Agamene, who is from the oil-producing state of Delta, told Reuters.

"We've been cheated for

too long."

His union's less effective northern chapters, however, have refused to join the strike.

Nineteen professors from the University of Ibadan in the southwest suggested on Wednesday that the government release all political detainees and let Mr. Abiola head a transitional government.

"These suggestions, in our view, will produce the minimum political conditions for getting this country out of the paralysing siege mentality into which we have been diving," they said in a signed article in the Guardian newspaper.

The military insists that democracy can only be restored through a constitutional conference, which has been created under Gen. Abacha and is now in session in Abuja.

British military faces bill for discrimination

By Patricia Reaney
Reuters

LONDON — Eleven years ago Katrina Key had a promising career with the British Army until she was dismissed for becoming pregnant.

After seven years of service, the 30-year-old recruitment officer was forced to resign under a government policy that excluded expectant mothers from the armed forces.

"I lost my home and my career. It was a massive upheaval," said the woman who had planned to make the military her life.

"I had fought to get the position and was specially trained. It was a very attractive job which I loved, but they made it very clear that I had to leave."

Ms. Key was just one of 5,700 women sacked by the military between 1978 and 1990 because of pregnancy. More than 4,000 have filed claims that legal experts estimate could cost the government up to £200 million (\$308 million).

The Defence Ministry, which has admitted that its policy was unlawful, has settled 2,259 cases at a cost of £18 million (\$28 million). It has also changed its rules and since 1990 mothers can return to the military after having children.

But for women like Ms. Key the reversal came a decade too late.

An industrial tribunal awarded her £110,000 (\$169,000) for her troubles. Josephine Green, a former nursing officer and single mother received a reported £400,000 (\$602,000) and ex-army Major Helen Home-wood got £300,000 (\$453,000).

The amounts of compensation, some of which the government is appealing against, have incited a national debate pitting the military establishment against legal and women's groups.

"We were paying these large sums to women who have become pregnant while men who have suffered horrific injuries have received far less," Sir Archie Hamilton, a former Armed Forces minister, said in a newspaper interview.

"Soldiers look on it all as a joke. It is so ridiculous they produce cartoons about it," added Major-General Sir Jeremy Moore, a commander in the 1982 Falklands war.

But Norman Lamb, a solicitor and organiser of the

Armed Forces pregnancy dismissal group which represents the women, failed to see the humour.

"These women have had successful, powerful careers snatched from them," he said. "They have experienced real anger and hurt because something they worked hard to achieve had been taken from them."

Mr. Lamb started the group, which includes lawyers from 300 firms, in 1992 after he represented three women who had been sacked. "I realised they were a small part of a much larger picture," he said.

A rush of claims followed a European Court of Justice ruling last August which said there should be no fixed upper limit in discrimination cases involving public sector workers. Previously payments in Britain had been held at £11,000 (\$16,000).

In a ground-breaking case Jacqui Thornton, 33, who was sacked by the Royal Air Force in 1985 won £22,000 (\$34,000) in an out-of-court settlement. The Ministry of Defence admitted discrimination but questioned the compensation.

Mr. Lamb defends the settlements, which are based on rank, lost wages, pension rights, other benefits and injury to feelings.

"The government broke the law," he said. "Other countries have been much more enlightened and allowed maternity leave."

The Equal Opportunities Commission, which has long championed women's rights, applauded the awards and showed little sympathy for the government.

"These women are entitled to compensation," a spokeswoman said. "The cost to the Ministry of Defence could have been avoided. Their practices had been discriminatory and unlawful for years."

Ms. Key believes much of the criticism is unjustified and could be avoided if the government acted reasonably. "I should not have been dragged through the court. The army offered me £4,000 (\$6,150) which wouldn't have covered my legal costs."

Anthony Morris, the head of the Industrial Tribunal which awarded Ms. Key's settlement, explained its action.

"It is quite wrong to compare these cases to military pensions, for example, where no award has been made by any court," he said after the ruling.

Arab Gulf stock markets open up to foreign investors to attract investors

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are gradually opening their stock markets to foreigners to attract capital after low oil prices created a large deficit in their balance of payments and turned some of them into debtors, officials and dealers have said.

The moves could eventually give birth to a giant regional bourse that could persuade local investors to bring part of their huge assets abroad after years of hesitation on the grounds the market is relatively small, they said.

Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman have already given limited access to foreign investors and are planning to widen such participation in future.

The remaining members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — are supposed to follow suit in line with the 1983 agreement to create a GCC common economic market.

"Yes, we are now allowing foreigners residing in Bahrain to invest in shares

and more moves are expected in future," director of the Bahrain stock exchange, Fawzi Bahzad, told AFP by telephone. "Such moves will enable us to break out of the local angle to international markets."

Although it is relatively small, Bahrain's exchange is one of the most sophisticated stock markets in the Middle East and it will make more progress soon when market-makers join brokers in the exchange.

The Gulf state last year decided to allow citizens from fellow GCC countries to trade in its shares and it has just decided to give access to resident foreigners into its investment portfolios.

Dealers said the exchange also planned to list other Gulf companies which currently trade their shares by telephone through brokers.

"Such a move could be followed by a decision to allow the listing of shares of companies from outside the GCC," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at the

National Commercial Bank, the biggest bank in Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain's bourse, opened in 1989, has 33 banks and companies with a market capitalisation of around \$5.6 billion. Despite its relatively low turnover, it is one of the busiest exchanges in the Gulf.

In a major step towards a joint GCC stock market, the Bahrain exchange has agreed to link up with the Omani bourse and measures were underway for the establishment of a mutual listing of their shares.

Oman's market is also a burgeoning project but rapidly expanding as the country has joined Bahrain in opening up to foreigners. Investors from other GCC states can now own up to 49 per cent of the shares of some Omani banks and firms while other foreigners have access to some investment funds.

"Foreign participation will expand in future with the setting up of more investment funds," said Mahmud Al Jar-

wani, director of the Oman exchange. "The Oryx fund is just a first step for attracting foreign capital."

Oryx was set up this year with a capital of \$52 million as a joint venture between Omani and British private investors. It is the first project of its kind in the Sultanate but another is planned with Japanese equity.

Kuwait, which shut the door for foreign investors just after liberation from Iraqi occupation, has just reopened it for other GCC citizens. It has also allowed other resident foreigners to own shares in investment portfolios created by the institutions trading in its exchange.

The Kuwaiti bourse has 47 banks and companies with a market capitalisation of around \$10 billion. Before the invasion, there were 54 institutions with a capitalisation of \$12 billion and the market was the busiest in the Middle East due to widespread speculation.

"Other GCC

ban foreign investment in shares but there are some banks and companies which allow GCC citizens to own shares," said Zuhair Kaswani, a UAE stockbroker. "Such a trend will likely expand as GCC countries press ahead with plans for a common market."

Mr. Azzam said GCC states, facing a balance of payment deficit of \$25-\$30 billion a year until 2000, could benefit from giant world investment funds seeking new markets if they opened up to international bourses.

"Such funds in Japan, the United States and Europe have a capital of more than \$20,000 billion, of which \$40 billion were invested in shares last year," he said. "In case they decided to boost investment to one per cent of their capital, this means a flow of an additional \$200 billion. Gulf states should prepare themselves to benefit from such a flow."

Multinationals flock to invest in China

BEIJING (AFP) — More than 50 of the world's 500 biggest multinationals are now operating in China, indicating the rising quality of foreign-funded ventures, an official was quoted Saturday as saying.

The multinationals have invested a total of more than \$4 billion in 26 fields, the China Daily quoted a State Administration of Industry and Commerce official as saying.

It said U.S., European and Japanese giants were being joined by the biggest companies of emerging industrial powers like South Korea and Singapore as the profile of China ventures shifted from the small export-processing ventures — dominant in the 1980s — to high-tech, big-money projects.

The average investment by foreign firms in China has jumped from below \$900,000 before 1991 to about \$1.35 million at the end of last year, the report said, adding that half of all the money directed at the country since early 1993 had come from "large international companies."

Chinese authorities have

recently been at pains to stress that a slowdown in pledged foreign investment growth this year does not signal a waning interest in the world's biggest market, but is rather a healthy trend reflecting the improving structure of inputs.

The number of contracts approved from January to June fell 42 per cent, while the value of promised foreign investment dropped 25.3 per cent over the same period last year, official say, but highlight that the average value of inputs hit \$1.7 million in the first six months of the year.

The China Daily quoted university economics professor Chu Xiangyin as expressing optimism that much of the money pledged by multinationals would materialise, saying that the signing of an agreement by such companies reflected a firm commitment to proceed with the project.

The declining ratio of pledged to realised investment has become a serious problem in China in recent years, falling in 1993 to about 100:18 from 100:63 in 1987.

Economic indicators signal recovery in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Agricultural and industrial exports have risen by 13.2 per cent in Lebanon compared to the first quarter of 1994, the Banque Audi said in a report here Saturday.

Total revenue now stands at \$172 million since the beginning of the year, according to the bank, the only one in Lebanon to produce an economic report.

Agriculture brought in \$35 million and industry \$73 million in the second quarter of 1994.

The construction industry made strong progress, expanding by 31.7 per cent since the first quarter.

The start of work by the Solidere company to reconstruct Beirut's war-battered city centre and large public reconstruction projects have boosted the construction industry, the report said.

Public and private investment from January to March stood at \$1.5 billion.

Beirut's port and airport also registered an increase in activity from April to June.

The number of ships and containers handled at the port rose by four and six per cent respectively, while the number of planes increased by more than 15 per cent and visitor figures rose by 23.8 per cent to 580,853.

The internal public debt increased by 11.3 per cent, from 7,983 billion Lebanese liras to 8,832 billion at the end of June. One dollar is worth 1,674 liras.

Since the beginning of the year, the actual debt has increased by more than 17 per cent.

Lebanon's trade balance showed a deficit of \$1.31 billion in the second quarter, bringing the overall deficit since the beginning of 1994 to \$2.53 billion.

An economist at Audi bank has forecast that the Lebanese economy would grow by between eight and 10 per cent in 1994, up from seven per cent last year.

"Certainly GDP registered a real growth for the first six months 1994 (compared to the first six months of 1993)," economist Freddie Baz, adviser to Bank Audi, told Reuters.

Qatar exports fall; trade surplus stays

DOHA (R) — Qatar's exports fell 17 per cent in 1993 to 11.58 billion riyals (\$3.18 billion), but the tiny Arab Gulf state still showed a trade surplus, according to official figures carried by Qatar News Agency.

Figures for 1993 showed a trade surplus of 4.7 billion riyals (\$1.29 billion), while 1992's surplus was 6.64 billion (\$1.83 billion), the official agency, quoting the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), said.

Imports also fell in 1993 by 6.3 per cent to 6.88 billion riyals (\$1.89 billion), the figures revealed.

CSO figures last year showed that Qatar exported 13.98 billion riyals (\$3.84 billion) worth of goods in 1992 and imported 7.34 billion riyals (\$2.02 billion).

Nearly 90 per cent of Qatar's exports in 1993 were of oil, natural gas or related products, much of it to the Far East.

According to CSO data, Qatar imported 2.15 billion riyals (\$591 million) worth of goods from the European Union in 1993, chiefly from Britain, Germany and Italy.

Asian countries accounted for another 2.13 billion riyals (\$586 million) worth of imports — just over half the amount from Japan, a major customer for Qatar's oil industry.

Figures for 1992 imports by region were not immediately available for comparison.

Suharto urges NAM to learn from debt experience

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia's President Suharto Saturday urged 31 developing countries meeting here to learn from the international experience of debt management in order to overcome their crippling debt problems.

"It is important for us all to mutually learn from past experience and take advantage from countries which have succeeded in overcoming their debt crisis and are capable of managing their debt well," Mr. Suharto said.

Speaking at the opening of a Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting

here, Mr. Suharto expressed hopes that the meeting would help guide debt-ridden countries towards a "comprehensive and fundamental" settlement of their debt problems.

Ministers from 31 heavily indebted countries and the host nation were here for three days of discussions on debt management.

Mr. Suharto, who is the current chairman of the NAM, said Indonesia had already experienced "the bitterness of suffering as an indebted country" and wished to share its experience.

But he added that it did not want to "take over the task of

seeking a settlement of the debt problems of developing countries."

Indonesia has been praised by the international community and major donors for the way it has managed its huge foreign debts, estimated at around \$90 billion.

Mr. Suharto said he had won approval from the Group of Seven industrialised nations to actively encourage dialogue with developing and developed nations on important world economic issues, including debt.

At the movement's last summit here in September 1992, Mr. Suharto set up a

commission of experts to report on the international debt crisis.

The commission, whose report is to be discussed in the ministerial meeting, called for massive debt reductions — of about 70 per cent — for heavily indebted developing countries which it said were necessary if they were to survive economically.

It said the ability of the heavily indebted countries to resume economic growth through domestic saving, investment and new foreign capital inflow was being impeded by existing debt.

Of the 58 countries judged as were heavily indebted in 1992, accounting for debts totalling \$248 billion, 32 were under-developed countries.

Twenty-seven of the countries invited to this year's ministerial meeting were African states, three were Asian while one of the two observer states is from Central America.

Representatives of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank were also attending the talks.

More economic changes are in store for Indians

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, architect of India's ambitious three-year-old economic reforms, said Friday more changes were in store and predicted a healthy pick-up in growth.

Speaking to Reuters in an interview, Mr. Singh dismissed claims the government's reforms had run out of steam because of political resistance and a brewing corruption scandal.

"I don't share the perception that the programme has slowed down," Mr. Singh said.

"By and large we have moved at the pace which we said we would move," he said, ticking off far-reaching reforms overhauling the tax system, lowering trade bar-

riers, opening up the financial sector and slashing stifling red tape.

Instead, he predicted accelerating growth would make it easier for the government to implement even painful changes.

He cited plans to give firms greater flexibility to fire workers, scrap quantitative limits on consumer imports and overhaul the insurance sector.

He said the government was aiming for growth in gross domestic product — output of goods and services — to accelerate to between six and seven per cent over the next two to three years.

He said he expected the economy to expand by at least five per cent in the fiscal year ending next March 31, up

from 3.8 per cent last year.

Protesting the reforms, about one million Indians will offer themselves for arrest from Tuesday in a massive nationwide campaign by communists against the government's free-market schemes.

Organisers of the protest predicted that another two million communists and their supporters will simultaneously paralyse federal government offices in the Marxist-ruled eastern state of West Bengal during the three weeks of protests.

The campaign is set to be the biggest against the sweeping economic liberalisation launched by the three-year-old government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

"We want the government to change the negative course of its economic reforms," said Muqumuddin Farooqi, deputy leader of the Communist Party of India (CPI), one of the four left-wing parties organising the protests.

"We are not against modernisation and foreign investment," he added. "But it should not be on terms dictated by multinationals." The staggered campaign will prepare the ground for a one-day national strike called by communist unions for Sept. 29 against the fiscal policies, said Prakash Karat, another communist leader.

Messrs. Farooqi and Karat said some one million volunteers, including members of communist parties and front organisations, would offer themselves for arrest by violating laws and refusing bail.

"We shall not come out of jail until the three weeks are over," said Mr. Farooqi, adding the campaign would aim to force the government not to bury wholesale 40 years of quasi-socialist economic policies.

"Our economic policies are presently being dictated by others," Mr. Farooqi said. "After all India is a very big market and we are in a position to dictate to others. But this is not happening."

The government has repeatedly denied opposition charges that its economic policies have been framed by international agencies like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Russia to privatise biggest oil exporter

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government plans to privatise leading crude oil exporter Nafta-Moskva, transforming it into a more flexible and competitive organisation, a senior company official said Friday.

Vladimir Yefremov, an aide to Nafta-Moskva President Anatoly Kolotilin, told Reuters the restructuring would take place in line with government instructions, but he could not say when or how shares would be distributed.

"Maybe it will be next year, but it is difficult to predict because a lot of further approvals are needed," he said.

Officials from the State Property Committee, in charge of Russian privatisation, were not available for comment, and it was not clear if foreign investors would be able to take stakes in the company.

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Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Gayle Dean

1 Across	1 Down	2 Across	2 Down	3 Across	3 Down	4 Across	4 Down	5 Across	5 Down	6 Across	6 Down	7 Across	7 Down	8 Across	8 Down	9 Across	9 Down	10 Across	10 Down	11 Across	11 Down	12 Across	12 Down	13 Across	13 Down	14 Across	14 Down	15 Across	15 Down	16 Across	16 Down	17 Across	17 Down	18 Across	18 Down	19 Across	19 Down	20 Across	20 Down	21 Across	21 Down	22 Across	22 Down	23 Across	23 Down	24 Across	24 Down	25 Across	25 Down	26 Across	26 Down	27 Across	27 Down	28 Across	28 Down	29 Across	29 Down	30 Across	30 Down	31 Across	31 Down	32 Across	32 Down	33 Across	33 Down	34 Across	34 Down	35 Across	35 Down	36 Across	36 Down	37 Across	37 Down	38 Across	38 Down	39 Across	39 Down	40 Across	40 Down	41 Across	41 Down	42 Across	42 Down	43 Across	43 Down	44 Across	44 Down	45 Across	45 Down	46 Across	46 Down	47 Across	47 Down	48 Across	48 Down	49 Across	49 Down	50 Across	50 Down
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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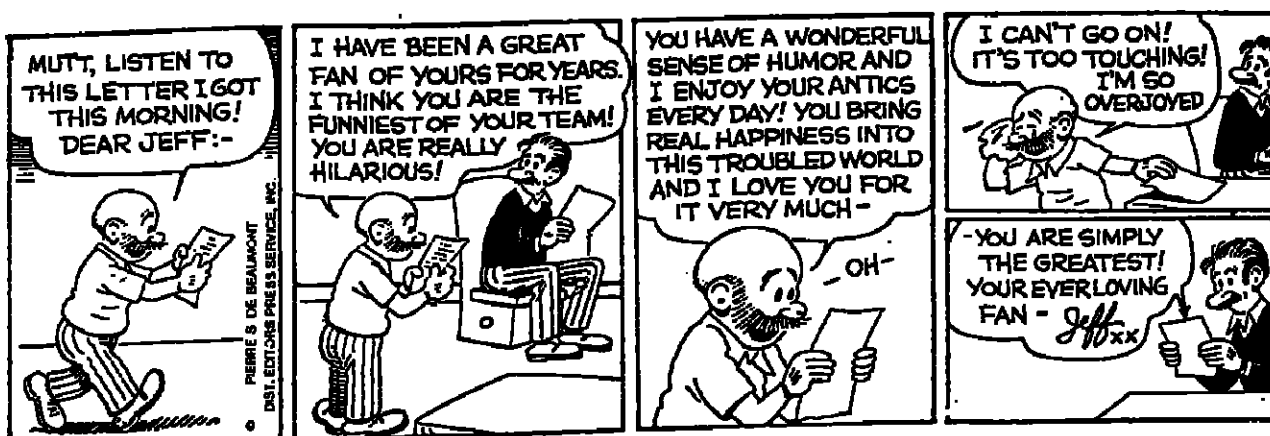
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

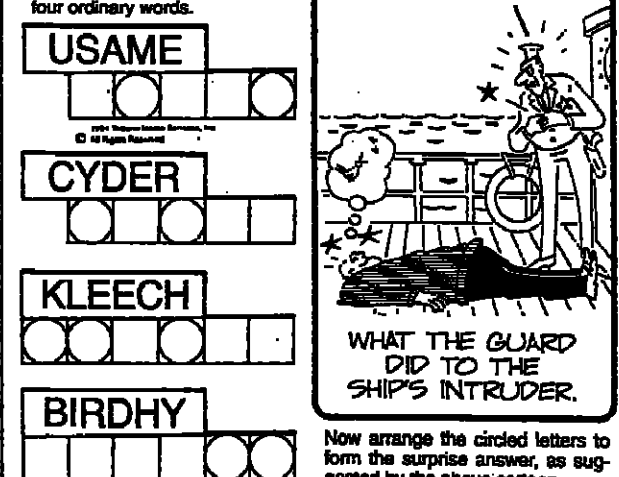


THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: HE

Yesterday's Jumbles: YODEL BLESS IMPAIR SAFARI
Answer: Where the gymnast found the music for her routine — ON THE FLIP SIDE

DOWN
1 Formal contents
2 Fish name
3 L1 one
4 Barrel
5 Take root
6 Fish fences
7 Overhang
8 Sleeve card
9 Spine-tiger
10 Marbles
11 Percussion instrument
12 Years' land
13 Be overfond
14 Author Sinclair
15 Mainz negative
16 Tenth poet
17 Ancient wine
18 Socrates' spouse
19 Heppily
20 Calico's country
21 Beliefs
22 Fun's instrument
23 Irish Gaelic
24 Donkey
25 Whirlpools
26 Chalcidomy
27 Principal part
28 "Able's" Rose
29 Prickly plant
30 Fire truck
31 Proportional
32 share
33 Proprietor
34 Wedding cake
35 Follow
36 Separating with
37 Nests
38 Swam member
39 Yule
40 Copy

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 11/8/94	New York Close Date 12/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5473	1.5465
Deutsche Mark	1.5600	1.5512
Swiss Franc	1.3130	1.3026
French Franc	5.3550	5.3225
Japanese Yen	100.13	100.17
European Currency Unit	1.2235	1.2248

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European Currency Unit: 100 p.m. GMT

Quarterly Interest Rates

Date: 12/8/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.31	4.62	5.06	5.62
Sterling Pound	4.93	5.31	5.68	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.93
Swiss Franc	5.93	4.06	4.18	4.37
French Franc	5.18	5.31	5.50	5.87
Japanese Yen	1.95	2.12	2.18	2.45
European Currency Unit	5.93	6.06	6.31	6.56

Source: JTB
Interest rates for deposits exceeding 1.5% Dollars, 1.0% p.m. or equivalent.

Precious Metals **Date:** 11/8/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ^o	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.15	7.50	Silver	5.68	0.110

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 13/8/1994

Currency	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	0.6940	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0721	1.0775
Deutsche Mark	0.4473	0.4495
Swiss Franc	0.5325	0.5352
French Franc	0.1303	0.1310
Japanese Yen	0.0092	0.0091
Dutch Guilder	0.3979	0.3999
Swedish Krona	0.0435	0.0437
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

For 100
Other Currencies

Other Currencies

Date: 13/8/1994

Currency	Buy	Sell
Baharain Dinar	1.8250	1.8370
Lebanese Lira	0.040355	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1547	0.1560
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3400
Qatari Riyal	0.1894	0.1907
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7850	1.8000
UAE Dirham	0.1884	0.1893
Greek Drachma	0.2685	0.3165
Cypriot Pound	1.3800	1.5000

For 100

AFM prices gain as upward trend holds

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Share prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) improved and turnover also went up by nearly one-fourth during last week following the dramatic breakthroughs in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations and American moves to alleviate the Kingdom's foreign debt burden, brokers said Saturday.

The weekly AFM report, released two days late because of the national holiday on Thursday, said the general share price index closed at 153.5 points, registering an increase of 1.06 points or 0.7 per cent from last week's close of 151.9 points.

According to brokers, the actual rise in prices was slightly higher but not reflected in the official AFM index, which only includes 60 major companies of the 110 listed in the market.

The AFM report said 4.5 million shares worth JD 11.4 million changed hands under 6,726 contracts during the week, up 21.3 per cent from last week's JD 9.4 million.

The industrial sector accounted for JD 6.1 million, or 53.3 per cent of the turnover, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 2.9 million, or 25.3 per cent, the services sector with JD 2.4 million, or 21 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 400,000.

The separate sector indices showed that services sector shares gained 3.8 points or 2.4 per cent, commercial bank shares 1.6 points or 1.1 per cent, and industrial

shares 1.4 points or 0.9 per cent. The insurance share price index showed a decline of 0.2 points, or 0.1 per cent.

Brokers attributed the rise in the services sector shares to expectations of booming tourism following the opening of a crossing point between Aqaba and Eilat for tourists and indications that Israeli tourists might be allowed to enter Jordan before the end of the year.

The opening of direct telephone lines with Israel and signs of accords in linking the power grids of the two countries as well as civil aviation agreements amid intensified negotiations on border and water were heartily welcomed by the investor community, brokers said.

"Hotels, tour companies and related service companies are expecting expansion, and hence the focus of

investors on the services sector," said a broker, who cannot be identified by name under standing AFM guidelines.

In general, brokers said high spirits and enthusiasm were visible among investors after a stagnant five-month period during which they saw many stocks losing up to 40 per cent of their value.

The progress in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations is coupled with an American move to write off \$755 million of Jordan's debts to the U.S., starting with \$220 million this year. The U.S. Congress has endorsed the necessary legislation.

It is also expected that other Paris Club creditors, who hold up more than \$3 billion in Jordan's debts, will offer debt relief to the King-

dom in various forms as part of an international commitment to ensure that peace in the region is maintained and safeguarded.

"Investors are indeed interested in the economic gains for Jordanian companies from activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but they are now assured that there would be economic benefits for Jordan independent of developments in any other track of the peace process," said a banking executive.

AFM stocks have recovered mostly from a beating they took since March against the backdrop of doubts of real economic benefits of peace and gains for local firms from the economic development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Further depressing the market shares was scepticism

over the fate of an economic agreement signed between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The agreement remains unratified by the PLO. But the fact that AFM shares were on a recovery course despite doubts over the accord with the PLO was seen by many as a sign of investors' confidence in the course of the Jordanian economy.

"A good number of companies which lost up to 20 and 25 per cent of their stock values have steadily been recouping losses in the past three or four weeks," said the executive. "For many, it is a strong indication that the trend in the market is being determined on local economic development rather than the economy of the Palestinian territories."

Arab Gulf countries boost fertiliser output

ABU DHABI (AFP) Arab Gulf states have stepped up their fertilizer production sharply in recent years to meet growing demand from their Asian clients, a study has said.

Production of fertilizers by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states jumped from almost 1.17 tonnes in 1970 to 7.8 million tonnes in 1993, said the study by the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC).

The 1993 figure included 3.9 million tonnes of ammonia and an equal amount of urea, said the study.

Production of sulphuric acid also surged by 75 per cent to 261,000 tonnes in 1993 from 149,000 tonnes in 1970, it said.

Only a small part of fertilizer output is used locally where agricultural areas are limited because of the desert character of GCC states.

Most of the exported products go to China and other

Asian countries.

The fertilizer industry is part of plans by GCC countries to diversify their economy and tap their huge natural gas reserves, estimated by the Doha-based GOIC at 19.67 trillion cubic metres, nearly 14.2 per cent of the total world gas reserves.

About 5.4 billion cubic metres of gas is used by the GCC in the fertilizer industry while the rest is used to produce petrochemicals or exported to Japan and other countries.

GCC states have embarked on major projects to expand oil production and other energy sectors to face growing world demand.

Apart from their large gas resources, GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE — control more than 40 per cent of the total world crude oil reserves of nearly one trillion barrels.

ATT, S. Arabia sign record \$4b phone deal

RIYADH (R) — ATT Corp and Saudi Arabia's telecommunications ministry Saturday signed a \$4 billion contract for a project to expand the kingdom's telephone network by adding 1.5 million lines, a statement said.

ATT Chairman Robert Allen and Alawi Darwish Kayyal, Saudi Arabia's minister of posts, telegraphs and telephone, signed the deal in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

"It is the largest contract in telecommunications history outside the United States," ATT said in the statement.

A letter of intent for the deal, including component for switching, transmission, network management, fiber optics, wireless, civil works and training projects, was awarded in May. ATT will be expected to

reinvest a portion of the value of the contract in Saudi Arabia.

ATT Saturday also signed an agreement with a Saudi company, Abdullah Said Bakshani Co., to equip and install a mobile telephone system, the statement said.

The agreement with the Saudi partner will be for a turnkey project based on the international global system for mobile (GSM) telecommunications system to provide wireless services to 200,000 local subscribers.

As part of its off-set commitment ATT was holding talks with three Saudi companies to set up possible partnerships in electronics, software-related services, and fibre optic apparatus, the statement said.

"We envision much more than the installation of a kingdom-wide network. This project and related objectives offer substantial economic growth potential to this burgeoning region..." Mr. Allen said in the statement.

Chase Manhattan Bank provided a \$197.55 million performance bond for the contract, bankers said last May. It was the first of what may be several financial arrangements for the deal.

Major Canadian insurance group folds

OTTAWA (AFP) — One of Canada's major insurance companies, Confederation Life, has been closed down by government regulators, the latest victim of the heady days of the 1980s when financial institutions made massive loans, especially in real estate.

But officials said most of the company's policyholders — mainly in Canada, Britain and the United States — will be protected by a government-backed industry rescue, although the degree of protection for British and U.S. policyholders was not immediately known.

The industry plan will protect Canadian life insurance policyholders for up to 200,000 dollars (about \$145,000).

But analysts said the collapse of Confederation Life could put new pressures on other Canadian life insurance companies who contribute to an industry-wide fund created to protect policyholders.

The industry organisation responsible for bailing out policyholders, CompCorp, may have to increase its assessments on remaining life insurance companies and that would have a negative flow on operating margins for those companies, said several analysts Friday.

Of Confederation Life's 230,000 individual policyholders, about 140,000 are Canadian.

Government insurance programmes will also protect deposit holders with Confederation Trust, the savings bank subsidiary of Confederation Life, for up to 60,000 dollars (about \$43,000) per depositor.

The folding of the Confederation Life group was announced later Thursday night by Doug Peters, Canada's Secretary of State for financial institutions.

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Dream Team II beat Russia 111-94 at World Basketball Championships

TORONTO (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal showed Russia some superpower moves Friday night to end any hope of a huge upset at the world championship of basketball.

O'Neal scored 11 of his 21 points in a three-minute span of the second half to break open a close game, and Dream Team II went on to a 111-94 victory in its final tuneup before the medal round was due to start late Saturday.

In the semifinals, Dream Team II faces Greece, an 81-55 loser to Croatia on Friday. Greece coach Makis Dedrinos rested his best players in the second half and said after the game that he was saving them for the bronze medal game against Saturday's Russia-Croatia loser.

The United States, in its first meeting with the former Soviet Union since a 1988 Olympic defeat, was loaded with confidence after consecutive victories of more than 50 points against Australia and Puerto Rico. But the Americans, averaging 123 points on 62 per cent shooting in their first five games, led just 52-44 at halftime, missing 22 of 42 shots.

The start of the second half didn't see the situation improve as the Russians twice closed within five points, the last time at 56-51 with 17 minutes left.

Then O'Neal entered the game, and the Russians had no answer.

The 2.16-metre (7-foot-1), 136-kilogrammes (300-pound) centre's 11 points helped extend the U.S. lead to 70-57, and when Joe Dumars and Reggie Miller hit 3-pointers on consecutive possessions, the advantage was 76-57 with 12:55 remaining.

Miller, who hit 13 of 17 3-pointers in the previous two games, missed six of his first seven 3-pointers. After taking a team-leading 20.2 scoring average into the game, Miller finished with 11 points.

Dumars, who did not play in the previous game, scored 20 points for the United States, and Derrick Coleman had 15. Yevgeni Kisourin

scored 18 points, Dmitri Domani 17 and Sergei Bazarevich 14 for Russia.

It looked like another easy victory when Kevin Johnson's layup gave the Americans a 17-7 lead. But nine points by Kisourin and five by Bazarevich keyed a 23-11 run that put Russia in front 30-28 with 9:35 left in the first half.

The U.S. team then scored the next 10 points, including two 3-pointers by Mark Price, to take the lead for good.

But the Russians didn't fold, matching the smallest halftime deficit of eight points managed by Spain in Dream Team II's first game. The original Dream Team led by at least 14 at halftime of every game at the 1992 Olympic and never won by less than 32.

Three of Dream Team II's six victories have been by less than 24 points.

Croatia 81, Greece 55

Meanwhile, Dino Radja dominated inside with 27 points and 10 rebounds and Croatia closed the game with a 21-6 run for an 81-55 victory over Greece.

Both teams had secured semifinal berths with victories in their first two quarter-final games, but Croatia now avoids meeting the United States until Sunday's gold medal game.

Radja, who plays for the Boston Celtics, took over at the start of the second half, scoring seven points in an 11-2 run that gave Croatia a 49-31 lead with 15:30 to play.

Greece, which is assured of its best finish ever in a world championship, closed within 11 points twice, the last time at 60-49 with 8:21 to play. That's when Croatia began its closing run, holding Greece to one field goal and two free throws, the latter coming with six seconds to play for the final margin.

Toni Kukoc of the Chicago Bulls, who had a subdued 14 points, started the final burst with a 3-pointer and Radja added seven points before leaving the game with 3:16 to go.



Larry Johnson of the U.S. fights for a rebound during their Friday game at the World Basketball Championships (AFP photo)

Stojan Vrankovic, who played for the Celtics, added 12 points and 12 rebounds for Croatia.

Fanis Christodoulou led Greece with 12 points.

S. Korea 75, Angola 71

Jae Hur scored 27 points to lead South Korea to a 75-71 victory over Angola in con-

solation semifinals of the classification round. Hur's two free throws with 52 seconds to play were the final points of the game. Angola (1-6) had scored four points within 15 seconds to get within 73-71 with 1:10 left, but couldn't score on its last two possessions.

Kyung-Eun Moon added

17 points for South Korea (2-5), while Hee-Chul Chun had 14.

Herlander Coimbra made seven 3-pointers and scored 24 points for Angola, and Anibal Moreira added 19.

South Korea was to play Egypt for 13th place late Saturday, while Angola was to meet Cuba for 15th place.

Hamalainen out of decathlon at European Championships

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus, the heavy favourite in the decathlon at the European Championships, fell in the first event of the second half Saturday and dropped out of the competition.

Hamalainen, second to American Dan O'Brien at the World Championships last year, had led after the first five events Friday with 4,512 points.

In the 110-metre hurdles opening up the second day, Hamalainen stumbled while heading to the first hurdle and fell when he hit the first barrier.

He did not finish the event and decided to drop out of the competition. He did not start the discus. The pole vault, javelin and the 1,500 metres are the other events of the second day.

Hamalainen had the best score of the year with 8,735 points at Götis, Austria, the last weekend of May. O'Brien's best this year was 8,715 at the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Hamalainen and O'Brien will meet next month at the Decastar meet in Talence, France, where O'Brien set the world record in 1992 of 8,891 points.

In Saturday's first final Valery Spitsyn of Russia won the 50-kilometre walk in 3 hours, 41 minutes, 7 seconds.

Frenchman Thierry Toulain was second, almost three minutes behind with Italian Giovanni Pericelli third.

In Friday's events, Heike Drechsler returned to the stadium where she won her first world championship 11 years ago.

Since then she has won gold medals in the Olympics, world and European championship long jumps, won bronze medals in Olympic sprints and relays, married and started a family.

"There have been a lot of highlights in my career. I think I've done well," Drechsler said after winning her third consecutive European title.

The former East German captured her event with a leap of 7.14 metres (23 feet, 5 1/4 inches) bettering Inessa Kravets of Ukraine. Kravets is another example of how

times have changed. Most of the former Soviet republics are competing individually and Ukraine has won seven medals, including two gold. Russia has 16, including seven gold.

In other events Friday, Britain gained two victories in hurdles by Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson.

Gunnell completed a unique series. She now has the European, Commonwealth, world and Olympic titles along with the world record of 52.74 seconds in the 400-metre hurdles. She took the European title in 53.33.

"I've always wanted to win the full set," Gunnell said. "I hope to be able to look back and enjoy that."

Jackson won the 110-metre hurdles with a time of 13.08 seconds, well of his world record of 12.91, although he went 13.04 in the semifinals for a championship record.

Next are the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada.

"It has been a difficult year for the British athletes, what with the Commonwealths and I obviously have to look for the double," Jackson said.

His victory was made easier when Mark McKoy withdrew in the semifinals with a groin pull. McKoy won the 110 hurdles at the Olympics competing for Canada and gained Austrian citizenship recently.

In the women's javelin, Trine Hattestad became Norway's third winner as she captured the women's javelin with a toss of 68.00 metres (223 feet, 1 inch).

Italians Alessandro Lambroschini and Angelo Carosi went 1-2 in the 3,000 steeplechase with Lambroschini winning in 8 minutes, 22.40 seconds.

Italy could have taken the top three spots. Lambroschini and defending champion Francesco Panetta bumped on the second lap and both went down briefly. Lambroschini recovered quicker while Panetta went on to finish eighth.

"I give all the thanks of this gold to Panetta, who pulled me up when I fell," Lambroschini said. "For 400 metres he was telling me to go, go, go and then again he was the one to change the rhythm of the race."



Britain's Sally Gunnell wins the 110m hurdles heat in the European Track and Field Championships in Helsinki Friday (AFP photo)

Second Cuban basketball player defects in Canada

TORONTO (R) — A day after Cuba's best player at the World Basketball Championships fled the team to seek refugee status in Canada, his backup as centre followed suit in a dramatic defection, a local paper reported Saturday.

Augusto Duquesne gave team security guards the slip Friday night and walked out of his downtown hotel and into a getaway van, joining star player Richard Matienzo who had pulled a similar escape the day before, the Toronto Star reported.

"I absolutely knew it would be my last chance to get out of (Cuba)," Duquesne, 24, was quoted as telling the Star through an interpreter.

"For certain reasons, I knew I would be dropped out of the team."

Duquesne said he was able to give his guards the slip because they were hypnotized watching the U.S. team play Russia on television.



Richard Matienzo

Matienzo, 25, who had been widely considered the key to Cuba's success in the competition, called Duquesne in his hotel room from the van through a cellular phone and told him to attempt his escape, the Star reported.

Cuban team officials told the remaining players after Matienzo's defection Thursday that his absence would make no difference to the team's fortunes and that he faced hardships in Canada, Duquesne was quoted as saying.

Team and tournament officials were not immediately available for comment.

Cuba failed to qualify for the world event's quarterfinal, losing to Germany Thursday night after Matienzo failed to show up for the game.

Cabinet official bids to save Italian Grand Prix

ROME (R) — Italian cabinet under-secretary Gianni Letta flew to France Saturday to appeal against the International Motor Federation's (FIA) decision to cancel the Italian Grand Prix.

Government officials said Letta, a senior cabinet member, would meet FIA President Max Mosley in a bid to have the Monza race restored after FIA canceled it Friday on safety grounds.

Letta travelled first to Milan to join up with Paolo Arrigoni, chairman of the Lombardy regional council which has been fighting for the race to be re-instated, as the pair prepared to make a joint plea to FIA.

There was some confusion about where and when the meeting with FIA would take place, with Letta's office saying they were travelling to Paris, but Lombardy council spokesman Guido Bollini saying Arrigoni was going to the Riviera city of Cannes.

The cancellation came as a shock for Italian racing fans, causing a wave of protest Saturday, and Arrigoni has threatened to resign if a solution cannot be found to allow the race to go ahead as originally planned Sept. 11.

The mayor of Monza has already handed in his resigna-

tion in protest at the inability to solve the sporting crisis. FIA decided to remove the race from the Formula One Calendar Friday because of doubts over whether Italian authorities would authorize safety work.

Safety has become a priority in Formula One after Ayrton Senna of Brazil and Austrian Roland Ratzenberger died earlier this year at the San Marino Grand Prix at the Italian Circuit of Imola.

Plans to make the Monza track safer by widening runoff areas at the dangerous Lesmo curves involve the felling of around 100 centuries-old trees in the Royal Park and the superintendent of cultural heritage for the Milan area has refused permission.

But Letta, who has already written to FIA, said Friday the race could still be saved by building in "one or more" chicanes to reduce speed.

Organisers have blamed the government for failing to ensure the grand prix — the highlight of the season for Italian F1 fans — would take place.

The fate of the race was one of the items discussed by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and Umberto Bossi, leader of the Federalist

Northern League, a key coalition partner in a meeting in the early hours of Saturday.

Berlusconi's other big partner, the neo-fascist-led National Alliance, called on FIA to find a solution that would allow the race to be staged.

The team has agreed to play in Wednesday's friendly after both parties reached agreement in principle on a new pay structure, Danish Football Association information officer Lars Berendts said.

The Danish soccer team have been negotiating a new pay deal for 1994-95 with the association for about three months.

The players threatened to boycott upcoming matches after the association refused last week to accept team demands for a profit-sharing bonus scheme on top of higher pay.

A spokesman for the players said the new deal would be finally negotiated over the weekend.

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Judge bars reporters from seeing victims' photos in Simpson case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The judge in the O.J. Simpson case refused Friday to let reporters see grisly photos of the murder victims, saying "graphic, sensationalistic descriptions of the pictures would hurt Simpson's chances for a fair trial."

The 47-year-old former football star is charged in the brutal knife murders of his ex-wife and a friend outside Ms. Simpson's Brentwood condominium late the night of June 12. Trial is set for Sept. 19.

Superior court judge Lance Ito, in a written ruling, said he was keeping sealed one picture of Nicole Brown Simpson and two photos of Ronald Goldman lying in pools of blood.

The judge said reporters describing the gruesome photos "would paint mental images in the minds of potential jurors that would prejudice the right to a fair trial to both parties."

Ito did allow reporters to review photographs of several exhibits used during the preliminary hearing, including gloves, a hat cap and a shoeprint.

The judge was responding to a request from the news media to view crime scene photographs shown to witnesses during Simpson's preliminary hearing.

News organisations requested that reporters be allowed to see — but not publish or broadcast — the photos to help report more accurately testimony in the hearing.

"There is no mystery as to the content of these three

exhibits as that contents is described in the record of the preliminary hearing," Ito said.

Ito also refused to release transcripts of secret meetings dealing with a mysterious yellow envelope turned over by the offence last month.

Ito did agree to release one transcript of a July 8 closed-door meeting. In the transcript, defence attorney Robert Shapiro asserts that Nicole's mother telephoned her daughter at 10:17 p.m.

Prosecutors have suggested the killing started at about 10:15 when a neighbour heard Ms. Simpson's dog

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EMBASSY OF INDIA

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

To mark the 47th anniversary of Independence Day of India, a flag-hoisting ceremony will be held on Monday, Aug. 15, 1994, at 10 a.m. at the premises of the embassy of India, 1st Circle, Jabal Amman. All Indians with their families are cordially invited to attend the function.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARAF
& YAMANI HUSSEIN
Thames Media Service, Inc.

SCORE ONE FOR THE ECDSYASTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 8 4
♥ A 4
♦ 10 2
♣ K 8 6 3 2

WEST
♠ 5 3
♥ K Q 8 7 3 2
♦ K 7 6
♣ Q J

EAST
♠ 10 9 2
♥ J 10 9 6
♦ J 9 5 3
♣ 9 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 7 6
♥ 5
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ A 10 7 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

The common form of a strip and endplay requires declarer to draw all the enemy trumps and clear one or two suits. On rare occasions, however, you can achieve the same result while some cards are still in the enemy hands.

North's negative double guaranteed four spades. After a cue-bid

sequence, North's four spade trump was Roman Key-card Blackwood, in which the king of trumps counts as an ace. When South's response confirmed three key cards, North bid the small slam.

West led the king of hearts and, looking at all four hands, 12 tricks are easy to come by — four trumps, five clubs, thanks to the even division, two red aces and a heart ruff in the closed hand. Unfortunately, declarer was not playing with glass cards.

After winning the ace of hearts, South cashed two high trumps, ending in dummy. A heart was ruffed and declarer returned to dummy with a club to the king, fetching the jack from West.

Applying the Principle of Restricted Choice, declarer continued with a club to the ten, losing to the queen. It might seem the contract was now lost, but West was trapped in an endplay.

Down to nothing but red cards, the enemy could not afford to lead a heart — declarer would ruff that in hand while discarding the losing diamond from the table. Instead, West led a diamond in the hope that East held the queen, but that was into the jaws of death. Six clubs bid and made.

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Martinez is out of L.A. Virginia Slims

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain was upset by no. 10 Amy Frazier 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) Friday in the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles.

Frazier's victory meant the top three seeds were knocked out of the \$400,000 tournament. Second-seeded Martina Navratilova lost Thursday to no. 13 Ann Grossman 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, and no. 3 Lindsay Davenport withdrew with a strained muscle in her left calf.

No. 8 Sabien Appelmans of Belgium continued the streak of upsets by outlasting no. 4 Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, and no. 5 Zina Garrison-Jackson lost to fellow American Grossman 3-6, 7-6, 6-2. Seventh-seeded Julie Halard of France eliminated Patricia Hy of Canada 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in another quarterfinal.

Frazier led 4-3 on her serve when Martinez broke to tie the first set. But Frazier regained the break on an errant forehand by Martinez and then served out the first set. In the second set, Frazier opened a 3-0 lead before Martinez won four straight games. Frazier, of Rochester Hills, Mich., got into the tiebreaker and won the first five points, lost her serve and then closed out the 1 hour, 33-minute match on a double-fault by Martinez.



Conchita Martinez

"I'm happy because I played well," Frazier said. "In the tiebreaker, she made some unforced errors and I didn't expect that. I tried to concentrate on each point and not worry about the score."

Martinez said she was tired from playing her second tournament in as many weeks, and high heat complicated playing conditions. "She was pushing me. I was all the time on defense," Martinez said. "I got so far

down in the tiebreaker, it was tough to come back." Controversial call affected Garrison-Jackson's match. She won the first set and broke Grossman to tie the second set 5-5. In the 12th game, Garrison-Jackson's backhand was called out in an overrule by the chair umpire to set up the tiebreaker. Grossman led 4-0 when one of her shots landed out. There was no call, so the point was replayed with Garrison winning it. Grossman recovered to go up 6-2 before Garrison won three straight points to close to 6-5. Another overrule gave Grossman the set.

Edberg, Chang advance to Ohio semis

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Stefan Edberg defeated a hobbled Amos Mansdorf Friday night to move into the semifinals of the \$1.72 million ATP championship.

Mansdorf had won the first set 7-5 against a ragged Edberg, the no. 2 seed. "He was in charge of the match from the middle of the first set," Edberg said. But about that time, Mansdorf pulled a muscle in his right calf while lunging to hit a backhand.

"After that, I played really well and didn't want to give up," Mansdorf said. He had the calf wrapped, but aggravated the injury later in the set. Still, he played on, winning points with slashing returns that prevented Edberg from hitting to his crippled backhand.

"I noticed he was struggling, but I couldn't move him around because I couldn't keep the ball on the court," Edberg said. "In a way, it helped. I was going for big shots," said Mansdorf, who has never beaten Edberg in 10 matches. "Maybe that's the way I always should play him."

Each player held serve through the first eight games of the second set. But Mansdorf, limping noticeably, was broken in the 11th game and Edberg served out the next game in four points to win 6-4.

Mansdorf dejectedly told the umpire he could not continue. "It's tough enough to beat Stefan when you're healthy," he said.

Edberg's semifinal opponent will be third-seeded Michael Stich of Germany, who beat Alex O'Brien, 6-2, 6-4.

Defending champion Michael Chang advanced the same way he did last year, beating Jason Stoltenberg 6-1, 3-6, 7-5. He will meet the resurgent David Wheaton, who eliminated seventh-seeded Jim Courier, 7-6 (7-3), 2-6, 6-3.

"He was a different Jason Stoltenberg that last year," Chang said of Stoltenberg, an Australian who has been the hottest player on the men's tour.

"He's been playing well this summer. If he keeps it up, he's going to be a dangerous player," Chang said. But again this year, Stoltenberg could not overcome Chang's dogged determination.

"He is the sort of player you've got to beat. He is not going to beat himself," Stoltenberg said. "He is going to run a lot of balls down, and he's not going to make a lot of errors."

Wheaton, whose career was interrupted by a series of injuries, continued his supercharged comeback. After

ousting top-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain Thursday night, he wore down Courier. "He's a high-risk player," Courier said. "When he's on a roll, those risks pay off for him."

Wheaton was sidelined 4½ months last year with a hip problem and eight weeks this year with a shoulder injury. Now healthy, he's won 15 of his past 17 matches.

"The injuries helped me get a new perspective on tennis," Wheaton said. "I'm just trying to do more to develop the talent that was given to me."

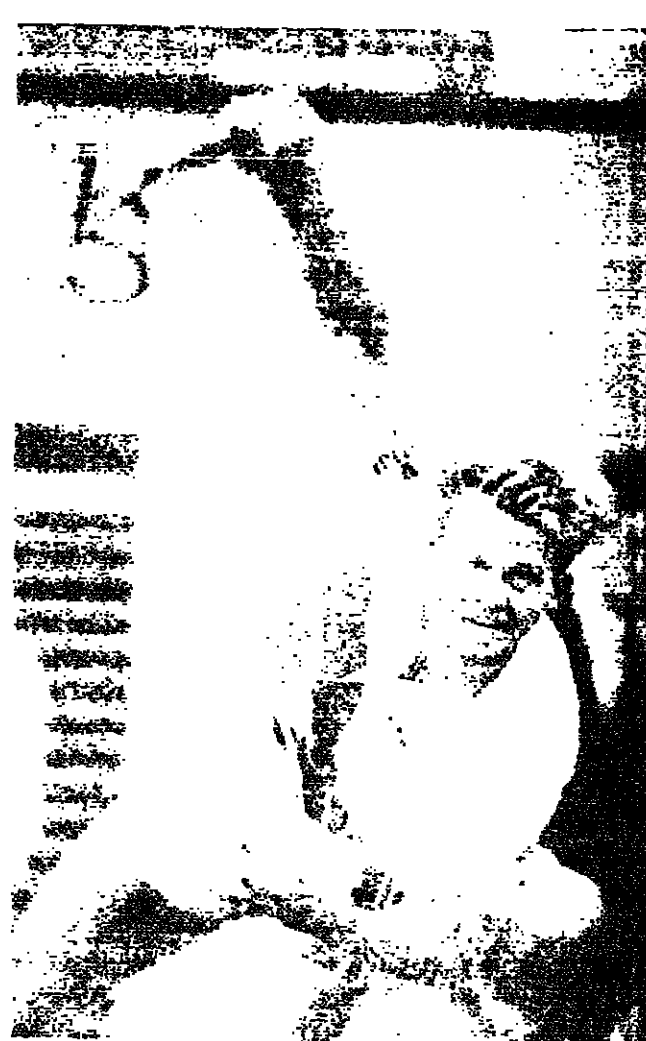
"Earlier in my career, I used to worry about where I was ranked, what tournaments I wanted to win and things like that."

"It was wrong for me to think in those terms. Now, when things go well, I don't want to revert to the way I was thinking in the past."

Because he missed so many tournaments, Wheaton's ranking of 107 at entry time for the ATP championship kept him out of the main draw and he had to progress through a local qualifier to make the field.

Since then, he's moved up to 65th, and should move into the top 40 after this week.

"Sixty-five is reflective of his last 52 weeks, but he has been playing better than that," Courier said.



Stefan Edberg

Singapore soccer star, official face graft counts

SINGAPORE (R) — A Czech soccer player for Singapore and a referee were charged Saturday with corruption after investigations into a match-fixing scandal.

Michael Vana, a 31-year-old midfielder, was charged with six counts of corruption and 43-year-old referee Rajamackam Thirujanamasamman, with two counts, the Singapore Broadcasting Corp. said.

The Straits Times newspaper said the two were arrested Friday and several other arrests may follow. Anti-corruption officials confirmed the media reports.

He also allegedly received Singapore dollar 1,000 (\$665) for himself.

World Cup stars are few in Brazilian championship

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Don't look for World Cup heroes when Brazil's first-division championship gets under way this weekend. Most have left for "greener" pastures.

The Brazilian tournament is the poor cousin of the wealthy European leagues. That's where Romario, Bebeto and nine other World Cup champions will parade their talents this year.

Japan, a candidate to host the World Cup in 2002, has snatched up defenders Ronaldo and Leonardo. Of Brazil's starting 11 in the Cup, only three play in their native country.

Few Brazilian clubs can compete with their overseas rivals. In a country where the minimum wage is \$65 a month, the lure of financial independence usually is irresistible.

The most recent to embark was 17-year-old phenomenon Ronaldo, the Netherlands' PSV Eindhoven bought the high-scoring forward from the Cruzeiro for \$6 million — the most ever paid for a

Brazilian player. "We didn't want to let him go, but we had to swallow it. There was no way Cruzeiro could pay what he will get," said the club's financial director, Mauricio Duarte de Souza.

Also gone is Carlos Alberto Pereira, coach of the Brazilian national team. Pereira accepted an offer to coach Valencia of Spain's first division — and took with him all-star midfielder Mazinho of Palmeiras.

But even without its top names, the national tournament retains its attraction as a showcase for local favorites, veterans and up-and-coming talent.

This year, the first division swelled from 20 to 24 clubs from around this continent-sized country, from the southern Pampas to the mouth of the Amazon River.

The teams are divided into four groups of six. The top four teams in each group advance to the second phase, while the other clubs play an extra round that qualifies two more.

Once again, the top contenders for the title are from Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest city.

Defending champion Palmeiras is a strong candidate to repeat, despite the loss of Mazinho and midfielder Edilson, who transferred to Portugal's Benfica.

Backed by Italian dairy giant Parmalat, Palmeiras has bought all-star attacker Rivaldo from Corinthians and is close to signing national team goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel, who left Italy's Reggina after last season.

They join a stellar lineup that includes Zinho, Roberto Carlos, Cesar Sampaio and Evair.

Another favorite is Sao Paulo, the two-time defending South American and world club champion, while the team's lost versatile defender-midfielder Leonardo, it has brought in new faces to join all-stars Zetti, Cafu, Fabinho and Muller.

The newcomers are midfielders Alemão, of Italy's Napoli and Atalanta, and Jose Luis Sierra, of Chile's Union Espanola. But the darling of the crowd is the diminutive Juninho, who has been promised a try out on the national team by coach Mario Zagallo.

Corinthians also promises a strong campaign. Viola and Marcelinho lead the formidable front line, while the defense has been bolstered by the addition of newly acquired all-star Branco and Paulo Roberto.

Rio's traditional clubs are deep in debt and considered long-shots to reach the finals.

Vasco Da Gama probably has the best chance. The team hired Sebastiao Lazaroni, coach of Brazil's 1990 World Cup team, and brought in former all-star forward Joao Paulo of Italy's Bari. Ricardo Rocha anchors a solid defense, and in the midfield the maestro is Yan, the revelation of last year's tournament.

All eyes on Middlesbrough's new manager Bryan Robson

LONDON (R) — Bryan Robson is putting a distinguished playing career for Manchester United and England behind him to tackle one of the biggest challenges of his life — the precarious existence of a football manager.

Robson, who led United and England with passion and bravery, has returned to his native north-east to attempt to revive Middlesbrough's fortunes and lift them into the premier league and back among the country's elite.

His arrival at Middlesbrough has sparked an enthusiasm to match the welcome that greeted another former England star, Kevin Keegan, at Newcastle two years ago.

Robson's transition from a great player to successful manager will be judged on his ability to emulate Keegan. He has been given two years to succeed, but the odds are heavily stacked against him achieving promotion in his first season.

With only one side gaining automatic promotion from

the first division this season and another via the playoffs as the premier league prunes its numbers, the battle to escape will be fiercer than ever.

Robson, who at 37 has gone from veteran to novice overnight, must pit his nascent skills against vastly more experienced coaches, including former England manager Graham Taylor who ended Robson's international career after winning 30 caps including 65 as captain.

Taylor, who is charged with taking Wolverhampton Wanderers back to the top and has been given plenty of money to achieve it, and the likes of Dave Bassett and Joe Royle at relegated Sheffield United and Oldham, and Roy McFarland at big-spending Derby are Robson's main rivals.

Robson, who intends to play this season, says he has learned a great deal from the managers he played under — a list that reads like a who's who of British football, Don Howe, Ron Atkinson, Dave

Seaton, Alex Ferguson, Ron Greenwood, Bobby Robson, and Taylor.

"I want to take the good points I learned from all of them — and try to keep myself from following the bad points, the things that upset me at the time," he said.

"I've got a long-term job here. My aim is simple, to establish this club as a premiership side, not just build a side which can get promotion, but one that will stay up."

"I don't want to set expectations too high, but we finished ninth last year and there has to be an improvement. We are determined to have a real go at promotion and I will be disappointed if we don't at least make the play-offs."

The ambitious Teesside club, whose gates slumped dramatically at the end of last season, were expecting a full house for their opening game at Ayresome Park against Burnley.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. foreign service written entrance examination for U.S. citizens only will be held Saturday, November 19, 1994. Deadline for application to be received in the U.S. is October 7, 1994.

Applications and further information available Personnel Section U.S. Embassy Amman



REMINDER

To: All ABS Parents
This is to remind all ABS students and parents that school and PE Uniforms and books are being sold in the ABS Sports Complex until August 25, 1994. Please ensure that your children buy them before the scholastic year starts on Saturday August 27, 1994. We wish all of them a very successful year.

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